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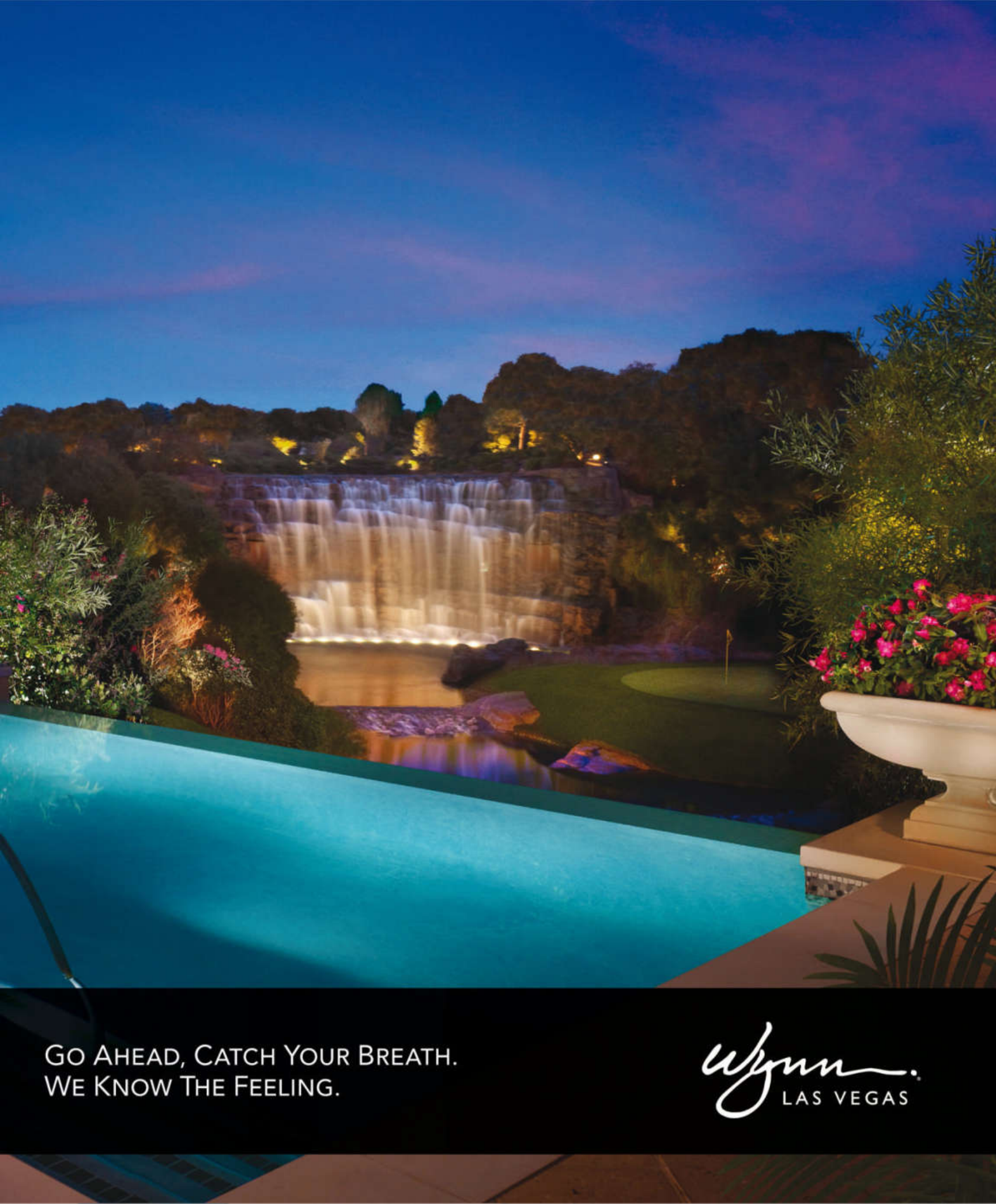
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Contents

11.2015



166
Finding the Rhythm
In Trancoso, the alchemy between expats and locals has preserved the tranquillity of this Brazilian beach town. Hanya Yanagihara takes a break.

176
If These Trunks Could Talk
What makes Goyard's pieces so iconic? We go inside the French house's (very private) archives to find out.

182
Up, Up & Away
Tom Robbins makes first tracks in northern Iceland's backcountry, where a helicopter drops you onto the slopes for endless runs of virgin powder.

192
Outside In
A surge of new restaurants, shops, and hotels in three Istanbul neighborhoods is focusing energy outside the historic center.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIAN GAUT


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Contents

11.2015



28
Editor's Itinerary How to beat out the crowds in Mexico and Cuba.



34
Reasons to Go Our one-sheet for what's trending around the globe.





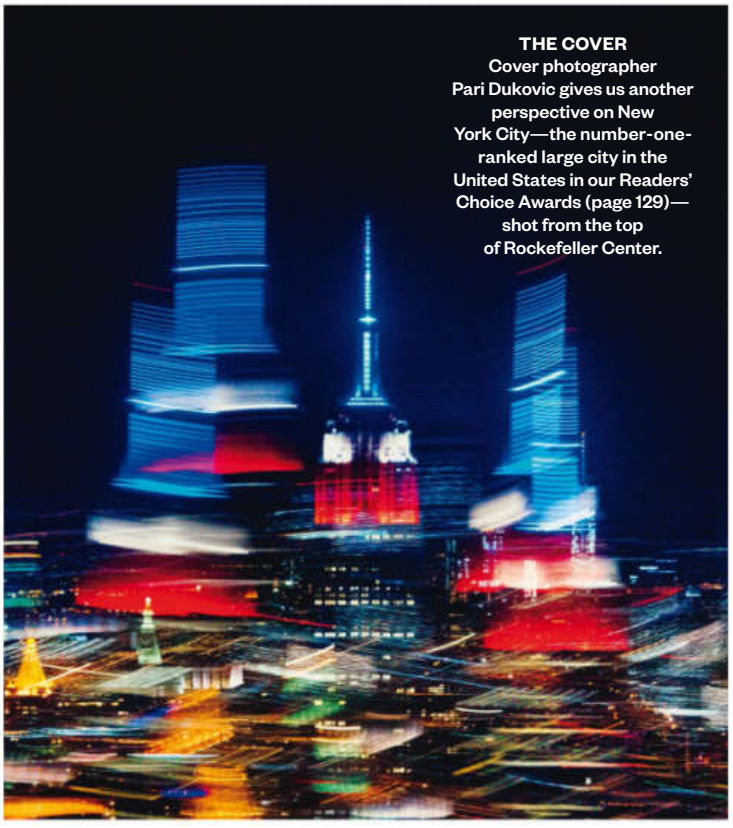
38
The Insider Designer Brunello Cucinelli's own private Umbria.



42
Hotel as Muse Fall's opulent florals and embellished accessories remind us of Lisbon's stunning Palácio Belmonte.

TALK TO US

Where are you going this year? E-mail your photos and tips to letters@condenasttraveler.com.



THE COVER
Cover photographer Pari Dukovic gives us another perspective on New York City—the number-one-ranked large city in the United States in our Readers' Choice Awards (page 129)—shot from the top of Rockefeller Center.



David Jefferys
EDITOR

"Readers' Choice Awards," page 129

The airplane of my dreams would have… "Flight attendants addressing you by title and surname. You'd feel like a million bucks." **Favorite hotel in the world?** "Rawla Narlai. It's midway between Jodhpur and Udaipur, in a tiny village in India under a massive, magical granite outcrop." **I'm embarrassed that I haven't yet been to…** "Hong Kong. I kick myself for never experiencing a thrilling landing at the old Kai Tak Airport."



44
The Upgrade Proof that a watch can (and should) double as jewelry.



46
Plane Clothes Model and stylist Linda Rodin on how not to travel light.

FIRST ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN WILKES/GALLERY STOCK; BILL BROOKS/ALAMY; ODDUR THORISSON. SECOND ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ODDUR THORISSON; CHARISSA FAY. THIRD ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY PARI DUKOVIC; DAVID GREVENGOED; GRANT CORNETT. CHANEL FINE JEWELRY PRINTEMPS DE CAMELIA WATCH (800-550-0005; $73,500). FOURTH ROW: PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WESTMAN


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Contents

11.2015



48
Hometown Fashion designer Prabal Gurung's guide to the sights and scenes of his beloved Nepal, which is on the rebound—and expecting visitors.



54
Covetable The eureka moment that inspired Louboutin's latest bag.



56
Out in the World Summer camp… in Greece; Costa Brava antiquing.



Rick Moody
WRITER

"Always a Critic," page 68
Top destination on your must-visit list? "Jerusalem, to see what the thousands of years of fuss are all about." **Favorite hotel?** "The Davenport in Spokane. It's haunted in a good way." **Favorite place to eat in your hometown?** "I ate at Per Se in N.Y.C., where presidential candidates apparently pass like ships in the night, but I think when I'm on my death bed I will be happier about the bonhomie I've experienced at the Good Stuff Diner on 14th Street."





60
Checking In Hot new stays in Puglia, San Francisco, and Jamaica.



64
The Hotel Breakfast Porridge to pine for at London's Chiltern Firehouse.



68
Experience Rick Moody channels an online hotel critic in his new novel.



Journey Take a walk through Honolulu's buzziest neighborhoods. Watch at video.cntraveler.com.



74
On Duty/Off Duty How to work and play in Frankfurt.



76
Black Book We're heading back to Oahu for its leveled-up food and shopping scenes, famous beaches, and lingering wisps of the Jet Age.

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BEST ISLAND
— 2015 —

Contents

DIGITAL EDITION

Download our digital edition for a closer look at Trancoso, Iceland, and more at cntraveler.com/apps.



86
Out in the World Grown-up dining in L.A., and this month's culturescape.



90
Travel Journal Chef Phet Schwader indulges appetite and memory in Laos.



#StayRCA Share photos of your favorite Readers' Choice Awards hotels, resorts, and cruises.



96
Out in the World A global drinking guide; Beirut's art moment.



100
Getaway Plan This Thanksgiving, trade the "obli-cation" for a *real* vacation at a classic or totally unexpected retreat. (You're welcome.)



Adrian Gaut
PHOTOGRAPHER

"Finding the Rhythm," page 166
The airplane of my dreams would have… "A Hästens bed with Matteo sheets and a steam sauna." **Favorite places to eat in your hometown?** "N.Y.C.'s Four Seasons bar for lunch (order the cotton candy), Grand Central's Oyster Bar, and Raoul's for the steak and a glass of Bordeaux." **Favorite surf spot?** "Maui's Honolua Bay, but I've heard Tahiti has good surf, too." **I would stalk the housekeeping cart for…** "The personalized stationery at Chateau Marmont."



129
Readers' Choice Awards Get ready to pack, because the votes are in. We've got your picks for the world's absolute best hotels, cities, airlines, and more.



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For destination inspo, visit pinterest.com/cntraveler.



201
Travel Intel Our experts' top travel tips on Brazil, Botswana, and more.

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216
Souvenir A much-treasured collection of airline ephemera from the pioneer of modern jet travel.

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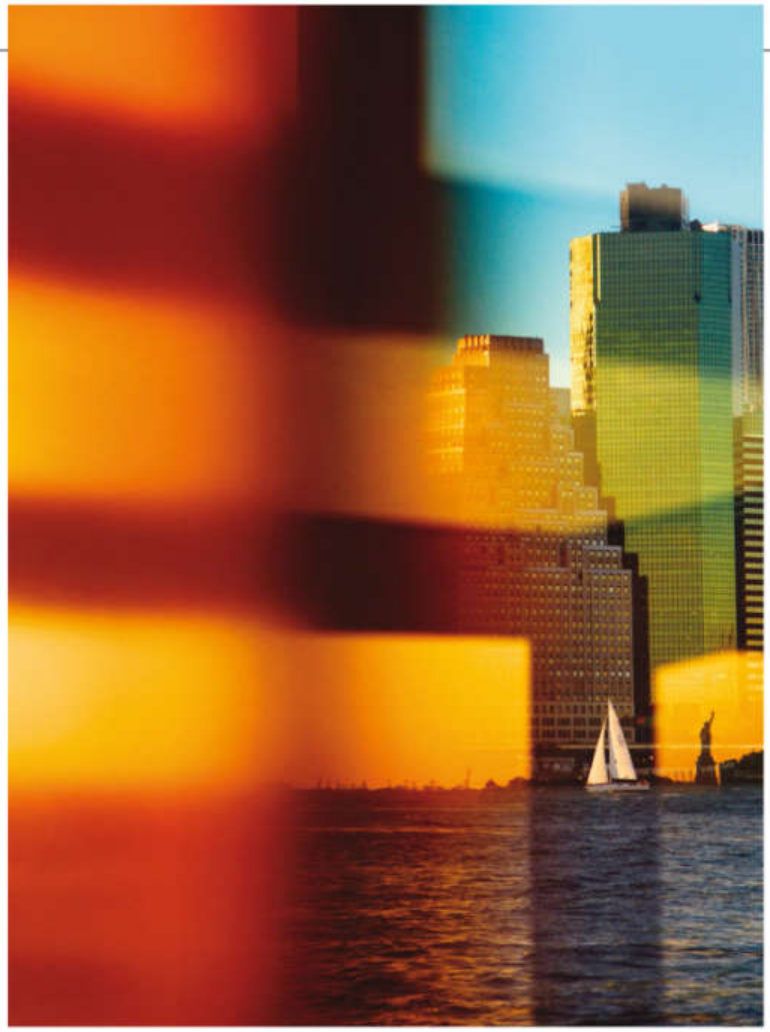


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Editor's Letter

The inspiration behind this month's issue . . .



Through the window of a boat, photographer Pari Dukovic captures New York City's dynamic waterfront from many angles, in which icons past and present blend harmoniously.

Destination Home

IT WAS LABOR DAY weekend and though I had originally planned to drive with my husband and two boys from New York City to Portland, Maine, for one last summer adventure, we suddenly realized that we hadn't spent a single weekend at home in Brooklyn. We christened our nomadic summer with a trip to Chicago for a wedding over Memorial Day and a road trip to Watch Hill, Rhode Island, the following. We spent the Fourth re-creating for our boys a version of my husband's Michigan lakeside childhood summers, canoeing, waterskiing, and swimming in the Adirondacks. During the month of August, we set up camp on Fire Island with a rotation of grandparents and friends. Our kids' feet never once touched the mainland, while my husband and I traveled back and forth to the city for work, returning on weekends and then for a weeklong stretch. We all spent enough time without shoes and a proper hair combing to feel sufficiently feral, never quite shaking the sand out of our swimsuits. For the first time in years, summer seemed like it went on forever, the way it felt when we were kids.

But when you reach the point where bare feet become impervious to a searing sandy stretch and limbs no longer require religious sunscreen application, you know it's time to go home—time to file down calluses, to tame unwitting Kristy McNichol shags into picture-day submission. At the very least, we needed a weekend of minimizing the risk of reopening hardening scabs, now itchy with their shoals of new pink skin.

And so we decided to forgo one last escape in favor of the comforts of home. Only home through the eyes of a visitor, and with a couple of caveats: We vowed to eat only in restaurants where we had never been and to travel exclusively by bike. These tiny concessions, even within a five-mile radius, made us feel like we were still on vacation. We had Vietnamese sandwiches for lunch in Bed-Stuy one day, delicious pork ribs along the Gowanus Canal the next, and perfect ramen in Prospect Heights for dinner. We discovered a tiny French antiques store in Boerum Hill we couldn't believe we'd missed in the two years since it had opened. Though the neighborhoods were familiar, the filter was different—the way a city you know so well looks through the lens of a foreign filmmaker or photographer.

Our cover image of New York, shot by Istanbul-born Pari Dukovic, feels like New York City of the past, present, and future—much as it felt to me on that magical cloudless weekend from the swings at Brooklyn's Pier 6. It had been years since I'd experienced the world from the apex of a very tall swing's arc, and longer still since I'd taken the time to look at Manhattan from the Brooklyn waterfront. The reimagining of Lower Manhattan as perfectly captured here in all its end-of-day dreaminess is one of the many reasons we know you voted for New York as your favorite major U.S. city. As for the rest of the Readers' Choice Awards (page 129), along with a mix of perennial favorites you will find some surprising tiny newcomers—a clear sign that you are out in the world and pushing yourself beyond travel's traditional comfort zones.



Pilar Guzmán, Editor in Chief

@pilar_guzman

PHOTOGRAPH BY PARI DUKOVIC

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Editor's Itinerary

Two trips we're obsessing over this month.





From left: The pool at Guadalajara's Casa Fayette; a doorway in the city of Matanzas, Cuba.

Go Now: Mexico

Mexico's ideal for those wanting one more trip before the holiday madness begins.

DO IT ON YOUR OWN

The country's more popular beach destinations offer near-automatic vacations, as millions of annual visitors to the Yucatán and Baja California can attest. But now is a particularly good time to visit, with the rainy season ending and holiday crowds yet to arrive. Whether you're keen on adventure sports like kayaking and hiking in Los Cabos, lounging poolside at the Moorish-style Cuixmala resort outside Puerto Vallarta, or an easy-breezy beach weekend in Tulum, it's simple to book a low-cost flight on Southwest or Virgin America, rent a car, and do it yourself. Better yet: The dollar has gained nearly 30 percent against the peso in the last year, making Mexico an even better value.

GET A LITTLE HELP

To go beyond the beach, call Zachary Rabinor of Journey Mexico, who can arrange private tastings at some of Jalisco's best tequila distilleries (Casa Dragones, La Tequileña) and plan visits to the agave fields, where you'll learn about traditional production methods—the plant's sugary hearts are still harvested and fire-roasted by hand. (Rabinor can also connect you with a reliable local driver, so feel free to taste, and taste some more.) The best place to stay in Jalisco is Casa Fayette; a new hotel from design-savvy Grupo Habita, it's set in an Art Deco mansion in Guadalajara. Journey Mexico also has a portfolio of countryside villas ideal for groups.

3 MILLION

Number of tourists to Cuba annually (only 20 percent are American).

Plan Now: Cuba

Getting there first has its advantages—bragging rights among them—but a visit to Cuba deserves careful planning.

DO IT ON YOUR OWN

Thanks to relaxed travel restrictions, it *is* possible to organize your own tour of Cuba—but it isn't easy. You'll need to convince government regulators at the U.S. Department of the Treasury that your itinerary is packed with "people-to-people" interactions which go beyond typical tourist activities like sightseeing and beachgoing. You'll also need to arrange a place to stay—this is where Airbnb's 2,600-plus listings can be a big help—and carry stacks of cash for those (frequent) instances where credit cards won't work, even though you're now theoretically allowed to use them here. "There are some misconceptions about just how fast the country can change," says Lauren Vikander of Insight Cuba, a tour operator that has been running trips to the island for 15 years. So while Airbnb has rentals in Havana and beyond, and the airlines are rapidly stepping up their charter flights, don't feel you need to get there next week: Book your trip at least three months out, Vikander says—you'll need that time to sort out the details.

GET A LITTLE HELP

Of course you can simplify these logistics by booking a pre-planned tour with an operator like Insight Cuba. The company has rolled out new itineraries since President Obama's December 2014 speech on bipartisan relations, including a seven-night trip that visits Havana, the western city of Pinar del Río, and the ruggedly beautiful Viñales Valley. With transportation, lodging, and regulatory compliance handled, you're free to actually enjoy the island—and that includes tipping back a few rum cocktails.

For customized itineraries to Mexico and Cuba, planned by Rabinor and Vikander, visit editorsitinerary.cntraveler.com. The first ten readers to book a trip will receive a ten percent discount.

FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY UNDINE PRÖHL/COURTESY GRUPO HABITA; ANDREW MOORE/GALLERY STOCK



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Tapas & Monte Carlo Cocktails

AFTERNOON:
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EVENING:
Walk off your scrumptious afternoon at the designer boutiques of Caesars Palace before joining an exciting **Mixology Training and Tasting** class led by Monte Carlo's director of beverage. After sipping an array of custom cocktails, sit down for Spanish tapas and paella at the award-winning **Jaleo** by José Andrés.



Gin and Tonic at **JALEO** made with Kaffir lime juice and juniper.

DAY 3

Race Cars & Backstage Beatles

MORNING:
Fuel up with a delectable breakfast in preparation for your exciting glimpse at some of the world's most spectacular driving machines. Ogle the mind-blowing rat rods created by Steve Darnell of the famous **Welder Up** custom auto shop, dive into history at the **Shelby American Heritage Center** and receive a private tour of the iconic cars and memorabilia of **Nostalgia Street Rods.**

EVENING:
After the adrenaline rush, downshift with a signature treatment at **The Spa at The Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas** and light bites at the **Tea Lounge** before polishing off your three-day experience with VIP seats and backstage passes to **The Beatles LOVE.** Las Vegas has never been so thrilling—nor delicious.

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INTEGRATED MARKETING MANAGER Scott Karrel
PHOTO PRODUCER Dana Kravis
CONTRIBUTING SENIOR DESIGNER Courtney Eltringham
PROMOTION COORDINATOR Allison ReDavid

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CARIBBEAN Tamara Gabelman 212-286-2572
NEW ENGLAND Stephanie Coughlan, RESPONSIBLE MEDIA 781-235-2429
LATIN AMERICA Paola Garza Fernandez 52-55-67185048

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Whether it's an emerging street food scene or just a new direct flight, we know travel inspiration comes in many forms. Below, our one-sheet for what's trending the world over.

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YOU'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND US THIS WINTER.



LUAUS

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See page 76

Rio

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WINE BATHS



IN NAPA

See page 100

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Where+Wear

The things we can't leave without



BRUNELLO CUCINELLI SHARES HIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

PHOTOGRAPH BY ODDUR THORISSON







Previous page: Cucinelli in Solomeo, his adopted hometown. **This page, clockwise from far left:** The town of Spoleto, with its Romanesque cathedral; lunch at Taverna del Sette in Trevi; grazing horses near Castelluccio di Norcia.

Soul Man

Virtually no one knows Umbria like Italian designer Brunello Cucinelli, whose whisper-weight cashmere scarves and fine-gauge sweaters speak of his deep respect for the region and its people.

"WALK IN THE woods around Assisi or look up in the cathedral in Spoleto and you'll find space in every sense. This place is full of peace and solitude. People call it *Umbria verde,* green Umbria. I call it *Umbria mistica.*"

Brunello Cucinelli has made his name producing ultra-luxurious clothes and accessories from some of the costliest raw materials available. But speak to him about the mountainous region of Italy he calls home and it's clear his values—as well as his design aesthetic, which tempers the opulence of all that fine cashmere, leather, and silk with an earthy palette and clean lines—are linked to its most irreducible elements: the sylvan landscapes; the rustic cuisine; and the modest people in their rosy-stone villages, some unchanged for centuries.

Among these is Solomeo, the hamlet near Perugia to which Cucinelli moved in 1985, eschewing an engineer's career in favor of a life producing beautiful things according to timeless artisanal traditions. As business flourished, he built a library, a recreation center, and a theater—used by the roughly 1,400 locals he employs, and any others who care to visit. He also opened the School of Craftsmanship, a workshop for the brand's most skilled artisans to refine and teach their crafts, keeping them relevant for new generations. In 2012 he took the company public, but the business strategy remains what he calls "humanistic capitalism," an approach that involves paying his employees about 20 percent above competitive wages and forbidding them to work past 5:30 P.M. That puts the $2,585 price tag on a Cucinelli cashmere shawl into context. "There's a beautiful expression of Saint Benedict's," he says, referring to the sixth-century monk who was born in nearby Norcia and from whom the Benedictine order takes its name. "It advocated the balance of prayer, work, and study. I believe we're in a moment where we've forgotten the

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importance of the soul in life. This is a place to rediscover that, to actually feel silence."

For Cucinelli, a peasant's son who grew up in a house with no electricity, Umbria's soul is its greatest asset. It's why he keeps every aspect of manufacturing and production local, down to the placement of zippers and the packing of garments by hand. "Through what I do I'm trying to say, 'Let's not lose this—this specificity, this culture that is only ours.' We may eat just bread with the new season's oil, but it's bread of the most pristine grain because it's grown here in our own soil. My whole life I've taken my olives to be pressed and bottled by a local woman who's made her oil the exact same way for 75 years. I think that's somehow quite sacred." -MARIA SHOLLENBARGER





From top: Local wines, meats, and cheeses at Cantina Antonelli San Marco; master tailor/teacher Fulvio Bastianini at the School of Craftsmanship.

The Essentials

Cucinelli gives up his black book of the local Umbrian producers, makers, and places to know.

HOTEL WITH HISTORY
"The **Abbazia San Pietro in Valle,** near Terni, is one of the most beautiful hotels in Umbria, and one of its very few examples of Lombard architecture—which makes the property about 1,300 years old. The hotel has terra-cotta floors and thick beams supporting the ceilings. It's remarkable to me how pristine nature is here" (sanpietroinvalle.com; from $141).

PLACES TO INDULGE
"Trevi is surrounded by olive groves as far as the eye can see—the region's famous olive oil has a DOP designation—and it's also home to sought-after local black truffles. Both should be sampled in their provenance: At **Tenuta San Pietro a Pettine,** you can tour the *tartufaia* and buy various truffle products, as well as roam the beautiful estate. And lunch at **Taverna del Sette,** which uses both local products liberally in its dishes, is a must" (sanpietroapettine.com; tavernadelsette.it).

TAKE-HOME TREASURE
"At **Tessitura Pardi,** a *bottega* specializing in table and bed linens, precise workmanship meets designs inspired by the traditional geometric peasant motifs as well as by Giotto and the Renaissance and even Liberty London. I really admire how the constant objective is to mine the local culture and marry it with the tastes of the twenty-first century" (tessiturapardi.com).

WINES TO FIND
"Centuries ago, Umbria's canteens were some of the most technologically advanced production facilities in Italy. Today, they're places where frenetic modern life relents. The Sagrantino di Montefalco red is our superior wine, given DOCG status in 1992. I particularly like those very limited vintages made by **Cantina Antonelli San Marco** and **Cantina Còlpetrone**" (antonellisanmarco.it; Cantina Còlpetrone, 39-0742-99827).

OLD GOOD THINGS
"On the first Sunday of each month, there is an antiques market in the main piazza of Pissignano, a tiny village not far from the Roman *tempietto* at the Fonti del Clitunno. It's not all that large, but the artifacts on offer are of exceptional quality."

SECRET SAUCE
"The **Frantoio Batta** is where our oil at Solomeo is pressed and bottled. The Batta family also maintains olive groves—about 3,400 trees. I've been taking my own olives here since I was a boy" (frantoiobatta.it).

CORNER STORE
"Norcia is a tiny microcosm of Umbrian history; today, some of our most traditional cuisine comes from this area. Go to **La Vostra Cantina** for the finest lentils, grown and harvested organically, and for *norcerie*—typical cold cuts, mostly delicious rustic salamis. Ask to have a look in the storage room, where hundreds of them hang, curing" (lavostracantina.it).


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INSPIRED BY...

Palácio Belmonte

If you're feeling like nobody dresses up anymore, look to the modern, opulent pieces that seem to be out in full bloom this season. (We especially love Carolina Herrera's take on the floral print.) It's an enviable aesthetic—a perfect blend of old and new—that reminds us of Lisbon's Palácio Belmonte, where original frescoes and nearly 4,000 hand-painted blue-and-white tiles live alongside bold contemporary paintings by Maria Pia Oliveira in this fifteenth-century palace turned hotel.





HOTEL HISTORY AT A GLANCE
Built in 1449 on the fortress walls of São Jorge Castle, Palácio Belmonte was once home to the navigator, explorer, and nobleman Pedro Álvares Cabral, who is credited with discovering Brazil. The hotel has ten suites—five of them with sprawling terraces overlooking the red-tiled roofs of the Alfama and the Tagus River.



Left: Chanel necklace (800-550-0005; $3,475); **Carolina Herrera** Hydrangea Jacquard printed top and skirt (212-249-6552; $1,290 and $1,190); **Verdura** Maltese Cross cuff (verdura.com; $38,500); **Dior Fine Jewelry** Pré Catelan earrings (select Dior boutiques; $14,800); **Tabitha Simmons** Willa shoe (netaporter.com; $695); **Valentino** Garavani bag (Valentino stores nationwide; $3,895).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIVAN ASKAYO; CHARISSA FAY; CHRIS GORMAN (6)



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Clockwise from top left: Chopard Happy 8 watch (us.chopard.com; $20,010); **Cartier** High Jewelry watch (cartier.us; price upon request); **Graff** Leaf watch (graffdiamonds.com; price upon request); **Louis Vuitton** Tambour Bijou Secret (louisvuitton.com; $28,400); **Dior Timepieces** La Mini D De Dior Snow Set watch (dior.com; price upon request); **Tiffany & Co.** diamond cocktail watch (tiffany.com; $30,000); **Goyard** leather case (Goyard boutiques nationwide; $4,485).

PROP STYLING BY MICHELE FARO AT ART DEPARTMENT

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRANT CORNETT



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"Unless it's five in the morning, I'm wearing red lipstick to the airport . . ."

Model, stylist, and essential oil entrepreneur **Linda Rodin** on her enduring affection for a drop-crotch pant and a good mystery novel.



I don't really travel light. If I'm going away for ten days, I pack most of my closet, which is ridiculous because I'll bring six pairs of shoes and wind up in the same outfit the entire time I'm away. I never wear everything I pack—just what's in the top layer of my suitcase.

Unless it's five in the morning, I'm wearing red lipstick to the airport. Whenever I'm fed up and miserable, I pull out my Rodin Oil, smell it, put it on my face and hands, and feel a little refreshed.

I check two royal-purple T. Anthony bags—I adore the color. I try not to carry on too much because I have a bad back and I hate schlepping. I picked up these two white bags in Japan. They're light as a feather—leather with no hardware. I'll bring along those, my Miu Miu plaid bucket bag, and my handbag with my toothbrush, passport, and whatever I'm reading. Lately it's been mysteries by the Belgian writer Georges Simenon. I can read two on a long flight.

Eyewear fills up half my carry-on—reading glasses, TV glasses, sunglasses. Everyone thinks I'm always in sunglasses, but I'm wearing Morgenthal Frederics bifocals because I can't see.

Taking off your shoes at the airport can be a nightmare if you haven't thought about it, so I always wear these sneakers from Japan. They slip on and off so easily. I love a drop-crotch pant—it's like wearing pajamas. These are wool from Comme des Garçons. My denim jacket is by MM6, and I think my sweater is from Zara and cost $20. I have a little gold Soraya Silchenstedt necklace with a tiny heart on it that I never take off. It belonged to my sister, who passed away. I'm not afraid of flying, but I wear it for good luck and safety.

AS TOLD TO MOLLY CREEDEN

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LIAM DUNN

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WESTMAN



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From left: The route to Chomrong, along Nepal's Annapurna Circuit; Prabal Gurung shopping at the markets in Lukla.

Our Man in Nepal

There's no better guide to Kathmandu and beyond than fashion designer Prabal Gurung.

"NEPAL IS MAGICAL, but it's also home," says fashion designer Prabal Gurung, who grew up in Kathmandu and returns every year to visit his mother, brother, and sister. And though Gurung has lived and worked in New York for the last 15 years (he became design director of Bill Blass in 2004, then, five years later, launched his own line), his homeland is never far from his mind. The Mongolian lamb–trim coats in his fall 2014 collection were inspired by the remote mountains of Mustang that straddle the Himalayas, and his most recent runway show began with 30-some Buddhist monks chanting (his way of saying thank you for the generosity shown after April's earthquake; Gurung's relief fund has raised nearly $1 million). "The spirit of the people in Nepal is incredible," he says. "I want to encourage everyone to travel there—it's totally safe." When asked for his must-sees, Gurung has his recommended itinerary memorized at this point. "You can't say you've been to Nepal without visiting the monasteries in Lumbini, the jungles near the Indian border in Chitwan National Park, and the mountains—the Annapurna, Langtang National Park, and the Everest region." What follows is the ultimate cheat sheet to one of the world's most mysterious and far-flung destinations. –LAUREN DECARLO

HOW GURUNG SPENDS A DAY IN KATHMANDU

"I'll have chai tea around 6 A.M., while looking out at the Manaslu, Ganesh Himal, and Langtang mountains from my mother's house. Then I'll have breakfast—usually just fruit and eggs—and catch up with my brother and sister. I'll walk around those little winding roads in Patan or Bhaktapur. I like to watch the people who live there—they have very little, but they're filled with peace. The recent earthquake damaged or destroyed many of the old temples in Durbar Square and at the Swayambhunath Stupa, but Nepalis cherish them, and I'm sure they'll be restored. Most nights, I'll meet friends in Thamel to listen to live music. My favorite local bands are the Midnight Riders and Bipul Chettri."

FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY THAMKO/IMAGEBRIEF; KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA

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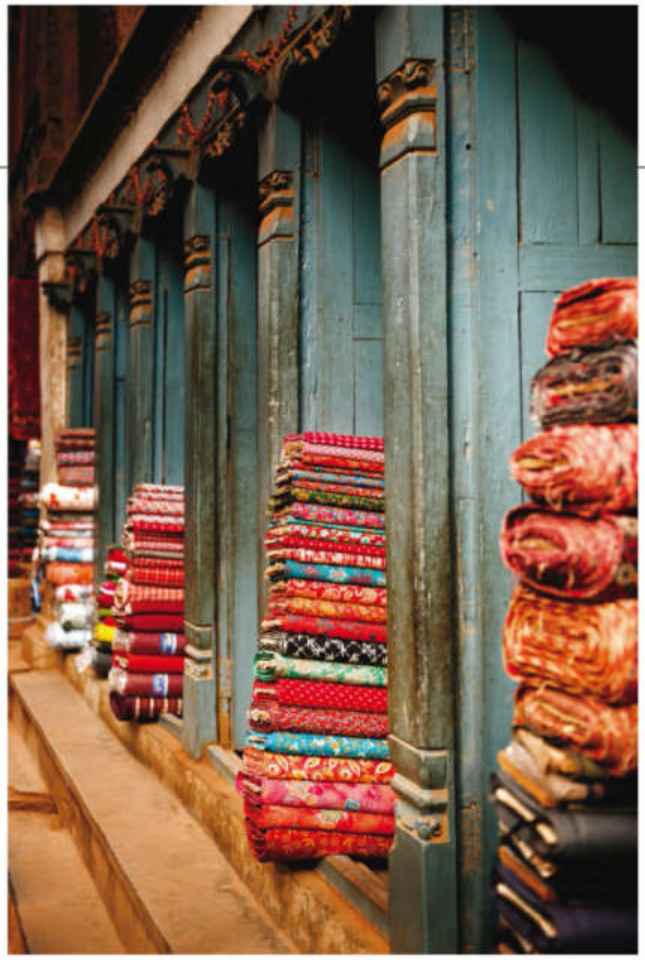
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Gurung always visits markets like this one, in Bhaktapur.

HERE'S WHERE TO SHOP ...

"I always bring a suitcase back to New York filled with scarves, blankets, fabrics, and cashmere. You can find inexpensive cashmere in Thamel. I always get inspiration walking through the markets. I love Asan Tole for fabrics. There are endless shops selling the most colorful saris and jewelry. The best spices are found in the open-air markets in Asan Tole—lots of blends and pickles you can't find in the U.S. Check out New Road for high-end silver items such as jewelry and vases. Patan and Bhaktapur are the best for local handicrafts, like woodcarvings and metalwork. I also try to pick up Thangkas, the traditional Buddhist paintings that take forever to make. They're so intricate. And one of these days, I'll buy some of those really expensive textiles that date back centuries. But for now, I admire them from afar."

... AND EAT IN KATHMANDU

"Roadhouse Cafe, Old House, Vesper Cafe, and Lhakpa's Chulo are on the higher end and very good. The best food, though, is made in the hole-in-the-wall places that serve traditional Nepali dishes like *momo* [dumpling] and Newari food—lots of beans, water buffalo, and beaten rice. The homemade alcohol—it's sort of like sake—in such spots is worth a try, too. There's an amazing Newari restaurant called Newa Lahana in Kirtipur that overlooks some of the last green fields in the Kathmandu Valley, and a little Tibetan place in Boudha, run by an older refugee couple, called Double Dorje. They serve the best *thukpa* and *thenthuk* [homemade noodle soups] and Tibetan bread in the city. And Tukuche Thakali Kitchen is one of my favorites for *dal bhat* [rice and lentils with sides of vegetables and meat, like chicken or goat]."

A potter at work in Durbar Square.



Our Top Specialists in Nepal

› Antonia Neubauer of Myths and Mountains (mythsandmountains.com).
› Sanjay Saxena of Destination Himalaya (destinationhimalaya.net).



HOTEL RECS FOR CLIMBERS

"Yeti Mountain Home is a collection of six lodges in the Everest trekking route of Nepal. They've got panoramic views of some of the highest mountains in the world. And within the Annapurna Conservation Area, Ker & Downey has the most luxurious lodgings for those trekking the Himalayas [above]."

HIKES, TREKS, AND CLIMBS FOR ALL

"I've done everything from a three-week trek to day-hikes out of Kathmandu. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, right on the edge of Kathmandu, is a quick and easy way to get out of the chaos of the city and smell the forest, and maybe see some mountains and monkeys. There are ponds, streams, and wild orchids growing out of trees. A more strenuous hike is up to the Champa Devi, on the southern side of the valley. Check out the ancient city of Kirtipur on the way. If you want to turn this day-trip into an overnight, call ahead to the Hattiban Resort. It has the greatest view of the entire Kathmandu Valley, with snowy mountains to the north. More experienced hikers should do the Annapurna Circuit Trek [20 days], Langtang National Park [7 days], or the full, original Everest Base Camp Trek [21 days]. All three are worth experiencing at least once in your life."

WHERE HE'S GOING THIS MONTH

"Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, to experience the spiritual energy and see the site of the planned Mahasiddha Sanctuary for Universal Peace. I always love going to the White Monastery in Boudha. It is the most serene place on the planet. And the Patan Museum. It's a restored palace, and the space is beautiful, the history fascinating, and the artwork inspiring."

Side-Trip Checklist

Gurung recommends making the Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, Dwarika's Hotel, or the Gokarna Forest Resort your home base in Kathmandu. Then, get out and explore.

1. Book a one-hour sightseeing flight from Kathmandu into the Everest region.
"If you go at sunrise or sunset, you'll realize how small we are in this universe. It's exhilarating, exciting, unnerving and calming all at once."

2. Take a boat ride on Phewa Lake in Pokhara.
"Spend the day wandering around the Lakeside district. It's so tranquil, and you can climb up the World Peace Pagoda and pop into all the kitschy tourist shops. From there, you can do a four-day trek up Poon Hill. It's not that strenuous—children can do it. Even though it's just a 30-minute flight from Kathmandu, you may want to spend a night or two. Stay at the Shangri-la Hotel & Resort for amazing views of the Annapurna."

3. Visit Chitwan National Park.
"It's a short hop on Buddha Air—just 20 minutes or so. Give yourself a few days in the jungle to canoe down the Rapti River. You'll definitely spot some crocs. And do an elephant safari—you'll see rhinos and, if you're lucky, maybe a tiger. I like the Kasara Resort—it's a fantastic hotel on the Chitwan border."

FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM HANSLIEN/IMAGEBRIEF; COURTESY KER AND DOWNEY; KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA



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ABU DHABI: AN



Steeped in ancient tradition while embracing the cutting edge, Abu Dhabi is an intriguing, otherworldly adventure for travelers seeking a truly distinct experience.

JUST 50 YEARS AGO, ABU DHABI WAS A SMALL fishing village comprising a sandstone fort and a scattering of barasti huts. Today, the largest emirate is a vibrant urban epicenter where majestic mosques are revered alongside gleaming icons of modern architecture. World-class hotels, exquisite culinary indulgences, and designer boutiques give way to vaporous deserts, verdant gardens, and picturesque islands. Abu Dhabi literally offers everything under its year-round sun.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY ABU DHABI TOURISM & CULTURE AUTHORITY

URBAN OASIS



ABU DHABI CITY

As the capital of the United Arab Emirates, this enigmatic megalopolis is only beginning to hit its stride. Luxury hotels, towering skyscrapers, and five-star restaurants abound, as do acclaimed museums, thrilling recreational pursuits, and the ever-present Emirati hospitality. Wander around the magnificent Emirates Palace. Take a speedboat tour and gaze at the incredible skyline. Visit the exhilarating Ferrari World and ride the world's fastest rollercoaster. Or peruse the souk markets for traditional carpets and handicrafts. Just don't miss the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. With its white marble domes and opulent interior—it's a masterpiece of design.

AL GHARBIA

The Western Region of Abu Dhabi offers fascinating forts, giant sand dunes, and pristine beaches. Drive across the sprawling landscape to Liwa, a historic town on the edge of the planet's largest sand desert, the Empty Quarter. Camel-trek over the dunes or go off-road exploring through Arabian Wildlife Park, located on Sir Bani Yas Island in the Al Gharbia region.

AL AIN

Once a vital oasis on the caravan route to Oman, today Al Ain is a UNESCO World Heritage Site ripe with rich heritage and lush greenery. Visit the bustling Central Market and watch camels being bought and sold. Travel back in time at the beautifully restored Al Jahili Fort, then visit a local date farm and a few archaeological sites. Or just spend the afternoon strolling along shady walkways. The "Garden City" is both a living museum and a refreshing escape.

SAADIYAT ISLAND

Located just minutes from downtown Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat is not only the country's cultural hub—it's also a global arts, leisure, and business destination. The island boasts stunning beaches, premier golf courses, and will soon be home to the all-new Performing Arts Centre, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, and the Zayed National Museum.



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Christian Louboutin Piloutin Maharadja bag—only a limited number were made (christianlouboutin.com; $1,650).

Tied to Place

Christian Louboutin was sitting in traffic in Mumbai's tony Malabar Hill neighborhood when a burst of jewel tones inside a tiny storefront caught his eye. "The sun was hitting it just so, and you could see how beautiful and colorful the ribbons were," says Louboutin of his chance sighting of Vivah Borders, an embroidery shop on Nepean Sea Road. He returned the next day and walked out with 40 plastic bags overflowing with trimmings. "I had to buy extra suitcases to carry it all home," he adds. The result? The **Piloutin Maharadja** handbag—inspired and dictated by a finite supply of ribbon. Although each bag is unique, all have hints of shimmering gold, bold cobalt, and of course Louboutin's signature crimson. –JAYNA MALERI

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN LEWIS

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JUST BACK FROM

Peligoni Club, Greece

Think of this water sports club as a more refined Northeastern summer camp—only on the dreamy Greek island of Zakynthos, and where activities like waterskiing, sailing, and paddleboarding are led by tall blond English university students. Just ask *Condé Nast Traveler* contributing editor Amanda Brooks (above), who spent a week there with her two children, Coco, 14, and Zach, 12. "The setting and design are lovely—not quite as über-stylish as Trasierra or the Ocean View Club but charming nonetheless, and the food is very good," says Brooks, whose kids especially loved "dance party night." Brooks suggests booking a nearby villa, arranged through the Peligoni Club. (She liked the Maistrali, a split-level that sleeps up to nine and has a kitchen, dining room, and laundry.) For meals you'll probably wind up dining alfresco at the club with other families, who will no doubt be back next year. And if your teenager isn't ready to call it a night when you are, he or she can hitch a ride back to the villa via shuttle.

–ALEXANDRA BOUSQUET-CHAVANNE

Getting There
Fly direct to Zakynthos from Athens (55 minutes) or from London Gatwick (3.5 hours), then rent a car in Zakynthos—Peligoni can make the arrangements—for the 45-minute drive to the club (peligoni.com).

PASS IT ON

"In Girona, on Spain's Costa Brava, I discovered Palau de Casavells in a fifteenth-century palace. I've bought many things here, including the large Danish worktable in my office and two chandeliers from 1960. Now I've got my eye on a pair of exquisite Art Deco brass chairs."

–Jeanne Signoles, co-founder of the Paris-based accessories line L/Uniform



The gallery Palau de Casavells, in Girona.

PACKING STRATEGY

Keep It in Neutral

Don't think twice about what to bring—opt instead for gray and tan pieces that translate everywhere.



Ray-Ban Clubmaster sunglasses (sunglasshut.com; $300); **Hermès** Kelly watch (hermes.com; $2,725); **Michael Kors Collection** Brackley bag (select Michael Kors stores; $6,000); **Boss** pants (hugoboss.com; $645); **Hermès** loafers (hermes.com; $1,325); **Max Mara** Olaf coat (212-879-6100; $3,590).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTOPHER BROOKS; CHRIS GORMAN (6); ANDRÉS FLAJSZER



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LOS CABOS

IN FULL SWING

With 14 breathtaking courses and counting, Los Cabos is expanding its golf and leisure scene—and architecting the perfect game

PUNCTUATING THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE BAJA PENINSULA, Los Cabos is arguably one of the planet's most celebrated destinations. The dramatic landscape offers unparalleled mountain biking and off-road exploring, the majestic Pacific and Sea of Cortez boast world-class sport fishing, and the pristine coastline is perfect for family wave-splashing or lounging with the e-reader. The luxury resorts at Los Cabos are also unrivaled. And then, there's the golf. With verdant courses chiseled deep into the desert and exciting new projects in the works, Los Cabos is emerging as the golf capital of Latin America.

Spectacular ocean views are par for the course at the extraordinary Puerto Los Cabos resort, but what makes its green a true standout is that nine of the 18 holes were designed by Jack Nicklaus and nine by Greg Norman. Never before have the visions of these masters been combined in this way, allowing guests the unique opportunity to experience two distinct styles on a single course. Both Nicklaus and Norman are currently designing their respective second nine holes here as well, and Norman is also involved with a course at the Rancho San Lucas resort. The anticipated San Lucas layout is said to involve sloped terrain creased by jagged canyons, with six holes set into gently rolling dunes near the sea.

A private community just a stone's throw from downtown Cabo San Lucas, Diamante already showcases award-winning courses by Davis Love III and Tiger Woods. Not one to rest on its laurels however, Diamante is bringing Woods back to design yet a third awe-inspiring course.

Another distinguished property that's coming out swinging is VieVage Los Cabos. This elegant boutique resort will front two miles of white sands at Chileno Bay, a picturesque cove known for its impressive swimming beaches. Equally impressive is that guests will have exclusive access to the Tom Fazio–designed course. Each hole on the lauded layout features gently flowing landforms that simulate ocean waves.

Its outstanding resorts and natural beauty are the ultimate playground of champions. Whether you're teeing off high above the Pacific, reeling in a prized marlin, or just hitting the spa—it's game-on in Los Cabos.



Cabo del Sol

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LOS CABOS TOURISM BOARD

POST

NEWS, UPDATES, AND EVENTS FROM THE PUBLISHER OF *CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER*



NEXXUS NEW YORK SALON CARE

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As a jet-setter, you need simple and effective solutions for your hair needs. Thankfully, Nexxus New York Salon Care delivers hair-care treatments to fit seamlessly alongside a life in motion. For over three decades, Nexxus has been at the forefront of hair-care innovation. Following the legacy of Nexxus founder Jheri Redding, advanced formulas, inspired by science and nature, create nourished hair alive with beautiful movement and fluidity. Using sophisticated technology, Nexxus treatments protect, repair, and strengthen your hair for life on the go. To learn more about these and other innovative Nexxus products, visit nexxus.com.



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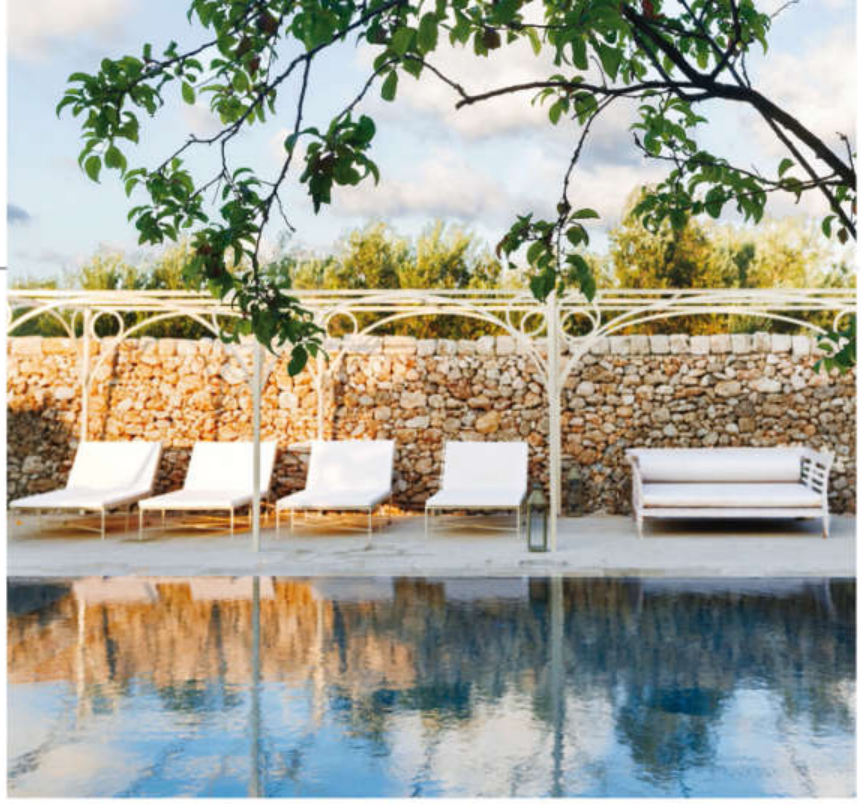
Word of Mouth

The things we can't stop talking about



YOUR NEXT DREAMY ITALIAN VACATION

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANZ SIMONE



ITALY

Hide Away in Lecce

In our favorite town in Puglia, two expat-owned hotels find the balance between authentic and inventive.

OF ITALY'S FEW remaining untrammeled urban gems, it's Lecce, in Puglia, that we're most enamored of these days. So tiny you can walk across it in half an hour, this town in the heel of the Italian boot punches way above its weight when it comes to impressive architecture: ornate cathedrals sitting one after another next to beautiful Baroque palaces, all built from *pietra leccese,* the singular creamy-white local limestone. Despite its aesthetic allure—and a small coterie of in-the-know enthusiasts, like the Guerrand-Hermès family, who quietly keep holiday homes here—Lecce has remained largely off the international radar. This year, though, the little town's reputation has grown in the world, as two expats have shown that an exceptional hotel, especially one that balances its style bona fides with a sense of place, can telegraph its adopted hometown's unique charms in whole new ways.

First, in late June, came **La Fiermontina.** Its owner, French businessman Giacomo Fiermonte, whose grandmother was a prominent Pugliese, wanted to create a "contemporary reflection of the old Leccese artistic culture for others to enjoy." The new-build architecture filters tradition through a minimalist lens, with rib-vaulted ceilings and tall, slim windows recalling castle embrasures. The restaurant serves elevated interpretations of *cucina povera* (*ciceri e tria,* fried pasta bits with chickpeas in broth, is the ultimate Puglian comfort food), which, while delicious when eaten in the elegant main dining room, are even tastier alfresco amid the olive and orange trees in the hotel's walled garden.



A ten-minute drive outside the town gates, Sydney-born former marketing executive Rob Potter-Sanders began welcoming his first guests to **Masseria Trapanà** in October. The medieval *masseria*—a fortified farmhouse—reflects his respect for heritage; he even brought in experts to restore the sixth-century frescoes in the on-site chapel. There are also creative flourishes cribbed from his own travels: an Asian-style pergola and, forthcoming, a hammam carved out of a vaulted subterranean olive mill. Perhaps best of all, Trapanà is surrounded by 148 acres planted with more than 500 trees in 19 different varieties, so even though the buzz of Puglia's new favorite town is just a hop away, you'll hear only the wind whispering through all those leaves. –MARIA SHOLLENBARGER

Previous page:
The grounds at La Fiermontina.
This page, from top:
Poolside at Masseria Trapanà; one of the grand guest rooms at La Fiermontina.

The Lecce List

MORNING MACCHIATO
At **Doppiozero,** the bearded barista has a deft hand at the Marzocco machine, and he also bakes a mean *pasticciotto*—a traditional apricot breakfast cake (emporio doppiozero.com).

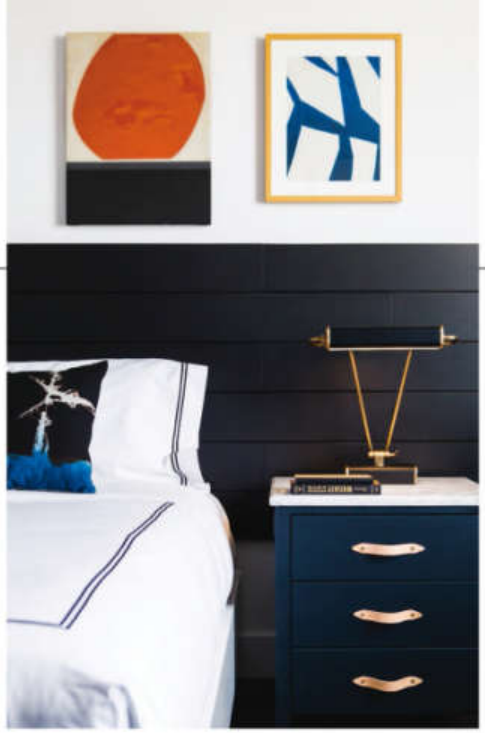
TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CULTURE
Housed in what was originally an early-fifteenth-century monastery, **MUST,** Lecce's historical museum, has a ground floor that's given over to contemporary art exhibits (mustlecce.it).

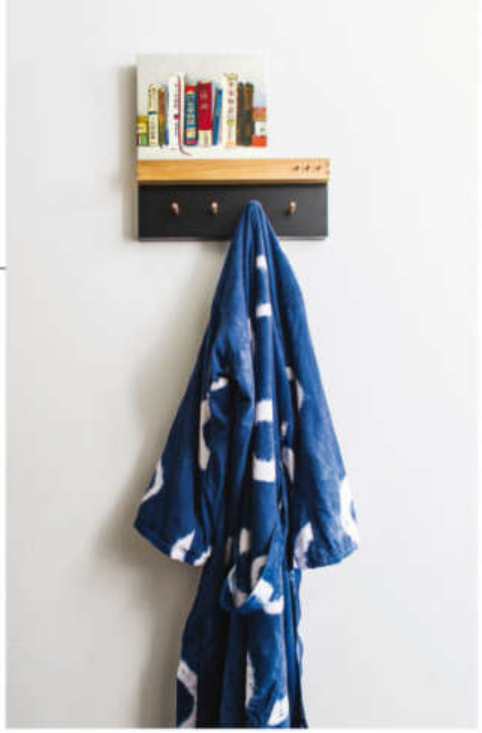
APERITIVO HOUR
On a one-block lane crammed with *enoteche,* **La Barrique Lecce** does strictly local wines and craft beers (labarrique.lecce.it). And in the new part of town, super-slick **300mila** serves proper cocktails to local cognoscenti (300mila.com).

BRING IT BACK
Treat yourself to a set of hand-finished linen napkins from **Society Limonta,** the luxury housewares emporium in the shadow of the Duomo (society limonta.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANZ SIMONE


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Bold prints (left) and a *shibori* robe hang in a guest room at The Buchanan.

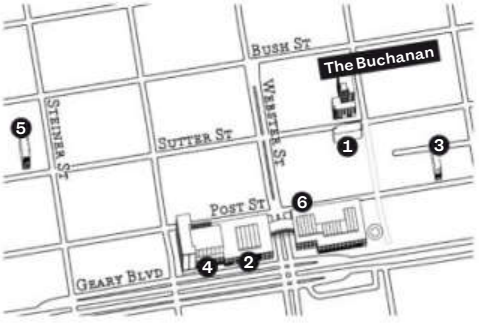
SAN FRANCISCO

Japantown: Eat, Play, and (Finally) Stay

At once kitschy and classic, San Francisco's Japantown is one of the few districts in the city whose unwitting cool has survived the second tech boom, its cherry blossom–lined plaza, octogenarian shopkeepers, and hole-in-the-wall noodle and sushi spots still as authentic as ever. The neighborhood's never had many places where you'd want to stay, however. But now there's **The Buchanan,** right by residential Pacific Heights and trendy Fillmore. The boutique hotel takes creative hints from its setting, with *shibori*-print robes and a Japanese whiskey–themed lobby where thousands of empty bottles decorate the ceiling and wood barrels make up one wall; and the hotel shares space with Mum's, one of the city's oldest Japanese hot-pot joints. The Buchanan's 128 rooms are a study in wabi-sabi: Rough canvas drapes offset crisp white bed linens; pale marble-topped dressers contrast with bright, asymmetrical wall prints. It's the perfect home base for exploring the area: approximately six square blocks whose treasures are mostly housed in malls (more Tokyo's Asakusa district than King of Prussia) that sell everything from kimonos and boba tea to bonsai. Here, a neighborhood hit list. -LEXI PANDELL

1. Benkyodo serves fresh *mochi* out of a nondescript glass-and-brick storefront. Get the *chofu,* a plain sweet *mochi* wrapped in a pancake and stamped with Japanese characters.

2. Kinokuniya Bookstore, a bi-level bibliophile's dream in the Kinokuniya Building, draws the aesthetically minded for its rare design books, Asian literature, and manga selection.



3. Waraku specializes in steaming bowls of ramen with thick, chewy noodles in pork bone or chicken broth. For something new, try the dipping ramen—a heaping plate of noodles, meat, and mushrooms ready to dunk into a bowl of fish broth.

4. Relax at **Kabuki Springs & Spa,** which offers massages, Reiki, and acupuncture but is most famous for its communal baths. (Swimsuits optional; silence mandatory.) The Sushi & Sartori group package includes access to the baths, private massages, and sushi.

5. The airy **Song Tea & Ceramics** gives free tastings from a hand-picked selection of Chinese and Taiwanese leaves, walking you through the teas' origins, brewing practices, and flavor profiles. Ask to try one of the aged varieties, some of which have been preserved and roasted for more than two decades.

6. Nijiya Market has the city's best assortment of imported Japanese snacks, sake, and beer. Buy a bag of Kasugai kiwi-flavored gummy candy and a bottle of Kawaba Sunrise, a craft amber ale from a mountain village in Gunma.

JAMAICA

Island Grown

If you're Chris Blackwell—owner of three of Jamaica's most sybaritic retreats—you have an enviable array of places you might call home. But it's to **Pantrepant,** his farmstead in west Jamaica, that the legendary music impresario heads when he needs to unwind. Tucked in the hills of Trelawny Parish, the 2,500-acre estate shows a wilder, greener side of Jamaica, harking back to when farms outnumbered all-inclusives and everything on your plate was island grown. Now, for those staying at his resorts (Goldeneye, The Caves, and Strawberry Hill), Blackwell has quietly opened Pantrepant to overnight guests (for an additional fee). They'll have the run of the place—picking mango and ackee and callaloo for breakfast, hiking to swimming holes, milking cows at the dairy, and eating farm-fresh meals under a giant guango tree. Food is very much the focus here: Having spent his early career bringing Jamaica's music to the world, the man who signed Bob Marley is now doing the same for the island's homegrown cuisine, which he sees as its next great tourism draw (islandoutpost.com). -PETER JON LINDBERG

Chris Blackwell's Pantrepant.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURE JOLIET/COURTESY THE BUCHANAN (2); COURTESY ISLAND OUTPOST. MAP BY MARK NERYS

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YouTube

Chiltern Firehouse, London

The impossibly sceney Marylebone restaurant draws all the celebs—Cara Delevingne, Marina Abramović, even David Cameron—and persistent paparazzi after dark. But in the quiet morning hours, it's a cozy, calm retreat in the city's most happening neighborhood.



VANILLA PORRIDGE
With a healthy slug of pure vanilla, it borders on dessert.

SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS
The boxer, shepherd, and, of course, classic English bulldog sets are joined by magnets at the nose. If you want your own to take home, just ask your server ($34).

EGGS BENEDICT
This Anglo-fied version is made with eggs from free-range Burford Brown hens (a heritage English breed) and maple-cured ham by Aubrey Allen, Suffolk's finest butcher.

BURLEIGH WARE CHINA
From none other than the historic Burgess & Leigh, in Stoke-on-Trent. The pattern, Blue Asiatic Pheasants, was the most popular in Victorian England (burleigh.co.uk).

PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLE FRANZEN


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Ahi Tuna Tacos at the newly opened Blanc Asia

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The world-renowned Blanc Spa is perhaps the crown jewel of the property. Guests are immediately enveloped in tranquility within the polished stone spa. The spa's Zen design features billowing white chiffon curtains, elegant wood and marble flooring complemented by soothing aromas.



Infinity pool

Blanc Spa provides guests with the opportunity to choose from traditional therapies and singular offerings such as hydrotherapy rituals or locally infused treatments including the Kukulcan massage and the Fish Spa.

Le Blanc Spa Resort also offers guests a variety of fitness options including yoga, TRX classes, and Aqua Spinning. Try your hand at an innovative mixology or cooking class, or relax at the Beach Club, featuring luxurious cabanas and an expansive terrace, perfect for enjoying lounge music over a menu of fine cuisine and tropical libations.

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Always a Critic

When Rick Moody began reviewing hotels for fun, he found the practice thrilling, at times even addictive. So much so he wrote a book about it (and perhaps discovered a second career).

ONCE UPON A TIME, I decided to write the Great American Novel. It was going to be about a journalist who, while covering Baghdad, suffered a traumatic brain injury and came home to recuperate and reflect on his American life. Sounds good, right? A bid for greatness! However, somewhere in the middle of writing this novel, I felt like it didn't express these times—the political philistinism, the total dominance of tween culture, the ubiquity of celebrities in skin care commercials. I wasn't grappling with these idiosyncrasies of the now so much as I was resurrecting an idea of the novel from 50 years ago. So I decided to abandon it and instead write a book about a guy who compulsively reviews hotels online.

It happened like this: I was staying in Bergen, Norway, with my wife, Laurel. She had business there. Bergen is a lovely northern European city, right on the water and with easy access to the mountains nearby—dramatic in a way that reminded me of the Pacific Northwest. And yet we were staying in a perfectly awful hotel, chosen for us by a certain penurious arts institution. If you were to

ILLUSTRATION BY GOLDEN COSMOS

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make a list of all the possible problems that might come up during an emblematically horrible European hotel stay, this place would have included most of them. There was a dingy sports bar on the premises whose cigarette smoke wafted out into the lobby and which also hosted a truly demonic weekend house music rave. The staff were surly; the breakfast was a ham sandwich in a box, and this could not be adjusted for vegetarians.

The situation was so bad that Laurel suggested we *review* the hotel. I had never reviewed a hotel online before, nor a restaurant, nor a dentist, nor anything else. Indeed, the immoderate trollery of the Internet, to which I had occasionally subjected myself (on Amazon.com, for example), was not, until then, a forum I thought I wanted to visit. And yet I found that keeping track of every cigarette hole in the sheets, every insolent remark at the front desk, made me, in a way, happy. Here are some lines from my review of the hotel in Bergen:

> *Where to begin? Upon walking into the room there was the unmistakable musk of wastewater and mildew. The walls were AbEx'd with dirt and ominous smears (just the hooks remained where the art had hung). There was stampeding on the floor above us overnight and early into the morning, as if the lodgers there were a family of hogs in the rut.*

I never published my remarks (until now), but I very much enjoyed writing them, and in doing so I felt suddenly aware of my surroundings, of the hotel part of my life, in a way I hadn't before.

This led me to engage with a whole world that was happening online. Out there on the Internet, it turned out, regular people—accountants, dance instructors, bird-watchers, missionaries—were all reviewing hotels at a dizzying rate. And when I came at last to look into these reviews, on Yelp, Expedia, and seemingly everywhere else, I often found them very funny and very contemporary ("Worst hotel ever! The rooms were filthy, with peeling wallpaper and shelves hanging off the wall.") I loved the way writing was happening with such passion on these sites, the way everyone seemed to have a life-or-death opinion. And I also thought maybe I could bring something to the form. A little dash of the literary.

I loved the way writing was happening with such passion on these sites, the way everyone seemed to have a life-or-death opinion.

About the same time, Laurel got an idea for a photo series in which she would take pictures of all the people she was distantly related to (located through DNA testing). And so we hit the road almost permanently, to the tune of logging 30,000 miles in the continental United States in 2012 and 2013. We were staying in 20 or 30 hotels a year, mostly together, and when we weren't together, we were e-mailing each other accounts of our hotels. It became a thing. Often we were in towns where there were only chain franchises, or where there were no good hotels to be had at all.

And so my fictional hotel reviewer, Reginald Edward Morse, the highest-rated reviewer on the RateYour Lodging.com website, began practicing his skills in these down-market wastes. The mediocre hotels only made for better copy! They *called forth* Reginald Morse. There was the check-in lady who asked Laurel if she was going to do drugs in the room; there was the place where there were crowbar lesions by the lock *inside* the room; there was the room where the shower was a glassed-in part of the living room, so that your partner had to watch you bathe; and so on. All of these places eventually were immortalized by Reginald Morse in his collected reviews, otherwise known as *Hotels of North America,* a new work of fiction by yours truly.

The Great American Novel would have been a more conventional career move. But what I found I really enjoyed doing was getting up at 5:30 or 6 A.M. in some forgettable hotel to write about where I was and what I had seen, what tiny moment in this onslaught of service-economy mediocrity had paradoxically felt most human to me. Laurel likes to sleep in, and in these hours of half-light, in which I sometimes lay in the tub, typing away with


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Brazil, Iguassu Falls, **Belmond Hotel das Cataratas**
Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, **Belmond Copacabana Palace**
Peru, Cusco, **Belmond Hotel Monasterio**
Peru, Cusco, **Belmond Palacio Nazarenas**
Peru, Lima, **Belmond Miraflores Park**
Peru, Machu Picchu, **Belmond Hiram Bingham** train
Peru, Machu Picchu, **Belmond Sanctuary Lodge**
Peru, Sacred Valley, **Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado**

EUROPE

Europe, **Venice Simplon-Orient-Express** train
France, Burgundy, **Belmond Afloat in France** river cruises
Ireland, **Belmond Grand Hibernian** train (2016)
Italy, Amalfi Coast, **Belmond Hotel Caruso**
Italy, Florence, **Belmond Villa San Michele**
Italy, Portofino, **Belmond Hotel Splendido**
Italy, Portofino, **Belmond Splendido Mare**
Italy, Taormina, **Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo**
Italy, Taormina Mare, **Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea**
Italy, Venice, **Belmond Hotel Cipriani**
Portugal, Madeira, **Belmond Reid's Palace**
Russia, St Petersburg, **Belmond Grand Hotel Europe**
Spain, Mallorca, **Belmond La Residencia**
UK departures, **Belmond Northern Belle** train
UK, Edinburgh, **Belmond Royal Scotsman** train
UK, London, **Belmond British Pullman** train
UK, London, **Belmond Cadogan** (early 2017)
UK, Oxfordshire, **Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons**

AFRICA

Botswana, Chobe National Park, **Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge**
Botswana, Moremi Reserve, **Belmond Khwai River Lodge**
Botswana, Okavango Delta, **Belmond Eagle Island Lodge**
South Africa, Cape Town, **Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel**

ASIA

Cambodia, Siem Reap, **Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor**
Indonesia, Bali, **Belmond Jimbaran Puri**
Laos, Luang Prabang, **Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao**
Myanmar, **Belmond Orcaella** river cruises
Myanmar, **Belmond Road to Mandalay** river cruises
Myanmar, Yangon, **Belmond Governor's Residence**
Thailand, Koh Samui, **Belmond Napasai**
Southeast Asia departures, **Eastern & Oriental Express** train

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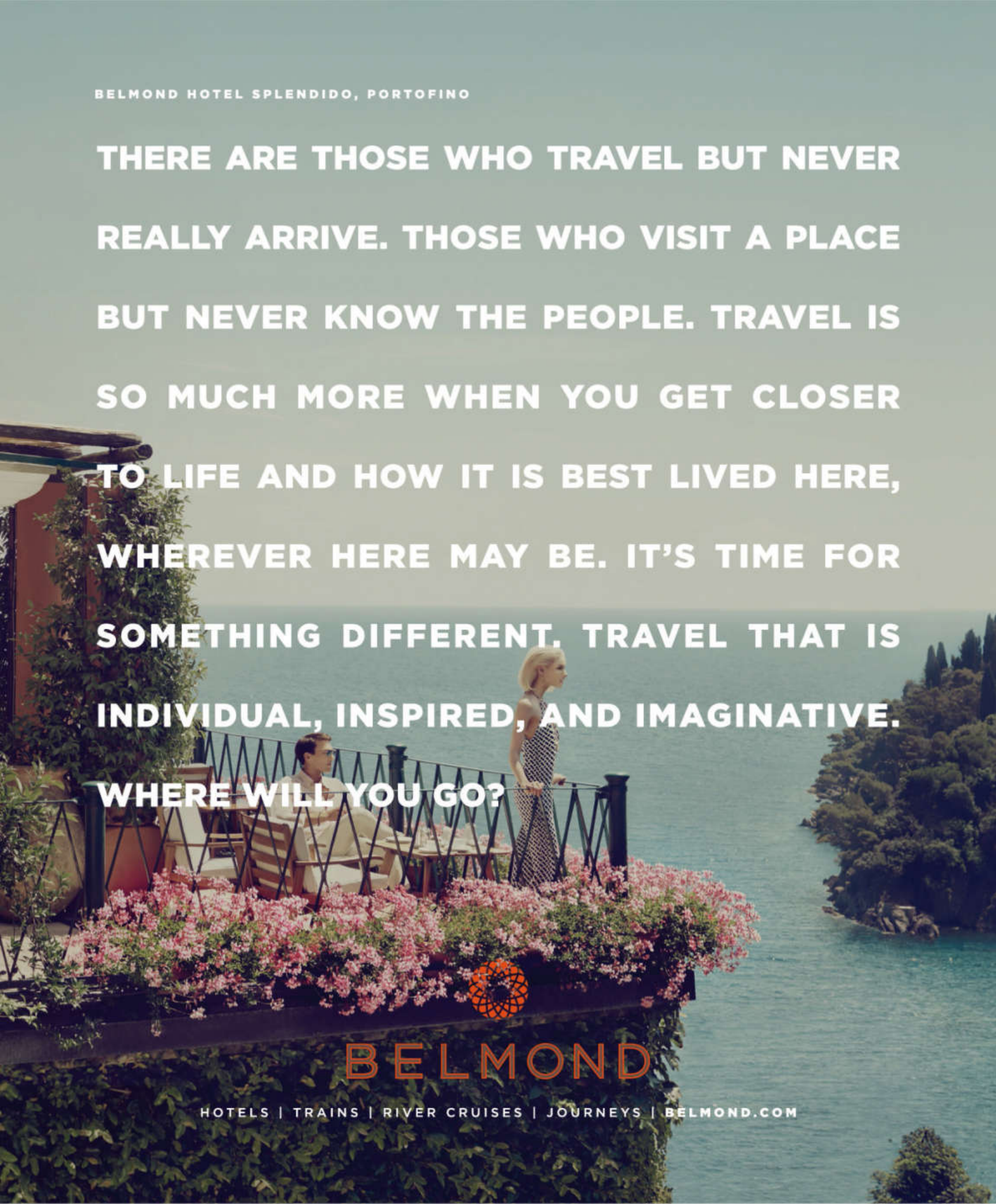
And yet I found that keeping track of every cigarette hole in the sheets, every insolent remark at the front desk, made me, in a way, happy.

the laptop balanced on the edge, I tried in this delightful solitude to describe the way we live now, in the language of our moment: the online review.

IT'S MY OPINION that in a really good hotel, it's the little failures that stick out (there was one in San Francisco where the drain in the sink had not one but *three* toothpaste-tube caps imprisoned in it), and in a very bad hotel, it's the little triumphs that are most memorable. As I write these lines in my room at the Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown, I can tell you that I never expected to have such a spectacular and panoramic view of the roiling surface of the Des Moines River. If Reg Morse were here, he'd definitely give this establishment *four stars.*

After a few years of reviewing in the voice of my character, I came to feel, just a little bit, that I was actually a hotel reviewer. A year or so ago we were staying in a mid-level chain hotel in the Florida panhandle, the kind of place you might book for an inexpensive golf vacation. We were exhausted by the time we pulled into the parking lot, and we were intent on bargaining with the front desk to let us check in early. Early, in this case, being about 40 minutes before advertised check-in. You and I know that the thing which prevents early check-in is whether or not the cleaning staff have turned over the room. If you arrive at 10 A.M., your chances are bad. On this occasion, the desk clerk refused us, though it was after two, and we asked for the manager. He was a drill sergeant of a guy whose reply to our inquiry was, *This is my hotel, and I will decide when check-in begins, and I have decided it begins at three o'clock!* My wife was livid. And that was when I uttered the immortal words which my character would surely have uttered himself: "*I am an internationally recognized hotel reviewer, and I am going over there to that sofa right now to review this establishment.*"

In five minutes, we had our key. ◆


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How to Work (and Play) in Frankfurt

It's continental Europe's largest financial center (and home to the world's biggest book fair and auto show), but a string of new boutiques and standout restaurants are proving Frankfurt's a lot cooler than you think.



Maxie Eisen, in Bahnhofsviertel.

Where to go for . . .

ESPRESSO
Klein und Main: Get your morning buzz on at this new wave coffee spot in the city's Bahnhofsviertel—its much hyped and quickly changing red-light district (kleinundmain.de).

LUNCH SOLO
Maxie Eisen: You gotta try the pastrami on rye (even if you're from New York City) at this deli-inspired café/bar, also located in happening Bahnhofsviertel (maxieeisen.com).

LUNCH WITH PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS
Moriki: Join the stylish business crowd talking shop over elegantly presented bento lunches and Japanese curries at this modern Asian restaurant in the new Deutsche Bank Towers (moriki.de).

DINNER SOLO
Apfelwein-Wirtschaft Fichtekränzi: You'll definitely make friends after a few glasses of apple wine at this packed pub. Keep it traditional and order Goethe's (reputedly) favorite dish: hard-boiled eggs and potatoes with herbed sour cream (fichtekraenzi.de).

DINNER WITH IMPORTANT CLIENTS
Weinsinn: At this Michelin-starred German take on French bistronomy, dishes are based on the day's freshest ingredients (like wild mushrooms with leeks and berries). There are three-, four-, and five-course menus, and the wine list is 250 bottles long. Impressive, right? (weinsinn-frankfurt.de).

DIGNIFIED DRINKS
Jimmy's Bar: For more than 60 years, Frankfurt's chicest have been meeting for champagne cocktails at this piano bar in the elegant Grandhotel Hessischer Hof (jimmys-frankfurt.de).

UNDIGNIFIED DRINKS
The Parlour: This lounge has a speakeasy vibe (dim lights, dark wood, tufted leather, no signage) and the most inventive bartenders in town: Name your poison and let them riff (Zwingergasse 6).
–GISELA WILLIAMS

WORTH TACKING ON

Add an extra day to check out the nearby Taunus region, known for its quaint villages and castles. Spending the night? Book the Schlosshotel Kronberg, built for Empress Victoria Friedrich in 1893. After a full-on renovation by British designer Nina Campbell, it's again open for guests (schlosshotel-kronberg.de; from $300).

The Locals' Download

Restaurant and nightlife pioneers (and brothers!) David and James Ardinast launched the fashionable deli and bar Maxie Eisen and the ambitious new Parisian-style restaurant Stanley Diamond, both in the happening Bahnhofsviertel. Here, they map out their perfect (walkable) hometown day.

"For breakfast or Sunday brunch, start at **Café Maingold,** a Baroque-style spot that feels like you're hanging out in someone's apartment—the crowd is a bit alternative and the food is very homey, fresh, organic. It's not far from the Main River, which is great to walk along, especially in summer and fall, and is lined with the city's best museums. Our favorite is the Städel, Germany's oldest museum foundation, with a sweeping collection of European art that spans 700 years. From the Städel, cross the Holbeinsteg Bridge, walk a half mile, and you'll be in Bahnhofsviertel. Grab an espresso at the **Plank** café, *the* hipster hangout in Frankfurt these days, with great coffee and cakes. Next, head to Kaiserstrasse, which takes you to the commercial center. Be sure you pop into the vintage store **13,** the women's boutique **Hayashi,** and **Uebervart,** the city's coolest men's store and our go-to for sneakers. For dinner, try the hopping restaurant **Walon & Rosetti** (we love the rib eye), or the hidden-away **Club Michel,** which hosts rotating theme dinners. End the night at **Mosel 45,** the club of the moment." –G.W.

David, left, and James Ardinast.



FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY EDUARDO PEREZ; ANDREAS REEG


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OAHU

HAWAII

AS IN ACAPULCO or the Poconos, Honolulu's mid-century turn in the tourism spotlight burned so bright that even today its 1960s reputation endures: It's only for newlyweds, so the thinking goes—stacked with tiki kitsch and mid-range hotels as faded as a lingering Pacific sunset. Nothing could be further from the truth. A post-recession influx of Asia-Pacific capital has spurred an islandwide building boom, while a surge of innovation driven largely by locals has transformed this city of 375,000 from a holiday outpost to a globalized, cosmopolitan destination, one that's closer to Tokyo than to Denver. (Almost.) Wisps of the Jet Age still float through Waikiki, where Pucci prints and floppy hats remain de rigueur. But the contemporary soul of the island is best seen beyond Honolulu's most famous stretches of sand: in the creative new restaurants sprouting up in emerging neighborhoods; in the only-here architecture of the Liljestrand House; at boutiques that are updating our long-held notions of Hawaiian style. Of course some things—the legendary breaks, the rugged North Shore, shave ice—will, thankfully, never change. Which is exactly why you're here once again. Welcome back.



An outrigger canoe on Lanikai Beach.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEGGY WONG







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The pool at Halekulani.

Where to Stay

Here's the thing: Those beachfront grandes dames you've heard about still are the top game in town.

HALEKULANI

Best for couples Oahu's most luxurious hotel—all soft neutrals, glossy marble, and just-so orchids—makes for a calm, clean-lined refuge from the din of Waikiki. The more formal vibe (no shorts or flip-flops in the hotel's restaurants after 6 P.M.) and standout service draw a sophisticated crowd. And if watching a sunset hula at the breezy House Without a Key bar isn't what you came here for, you're on the wrong island (halekulani.com; from $495).

THE KAHALA HOTEL AND RESORT

Best for families Fifteen minutes southeast of Waikiki, in a ritzy residential neighborhood next to a country club, this '60s-era resort is an island unto itself, with its own (nominally public but quasi-private) beach, plenty of restaurants, and—your kids are going to freak—a huge, miraculously unhokey lagoon complete with dolphins, sea turtles, and stingrays (kahalaresort.com; from $430).

THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN

Best for incurable nostalgics Just what is it about Honolulu's Royal Hawaiian? So much borders on kooky kitsch, but it's all done so well that no one cares. This is that hell-yeah-we're-in-Hawaii fantasy we're all looking for, from the pink pool umbrellas to the undeniably great weekly luau (royal-hawaiian.com; from $385).

GO HUNGRY

Five things to eat in Kaimuki, the island's of-the-moment food neighborhood.

1. Mud Hen Water's steamed mahimahi served with a green-banana *pastele*.

2. Koko Head Cafe's cornflake French toast.

3. Town's house-made charcuterie.

4. Via Gelato's strawberry *ume* gelato.

5. Kaimuki Superette's South Shore *he'e* roll (pictured), with poached octopus, celery seed, and tarragon aioli on a buttered bun.





Eat Local

Chef and native son Ed Kenney—who followed up his hit restaurant Town with the new Mud Hen Water—steers us to his favorite authentic Hawaiian spots.

HANNARA RESTAURANT

"A true snapshot of home-style island cuisine. Breakfast is served all day, so you can order pancakes with your *lau lau*—pork wrapped in taro leaves" (86-078 Farrington Hwy., Waianae).

ONO HAWAIIAN FOODS

"I go on Mondays for their classic 'Chop Steak' stir-fry of thinly sliced beef and onions on fresh watercress—it's a brilliant contrast in textures, temperatures, and flavors" (726 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu).

PALACE SAIMIN

"Since 1946, this family-run hole-in-the-wall has done the best *saimin*, a rich and porky soup of Japanese-style *dashi* broth, chewy noodles, and BBQ meat" (1256 N. King St., Honolulu).

WAT GET KITCHEN

"There's no better place on Oahu for the Hawaiian version of Puerto Rican food: gandule rice, *pasteles*, and bacalao salad" (94-752 Hikimoe St., Waipahu).





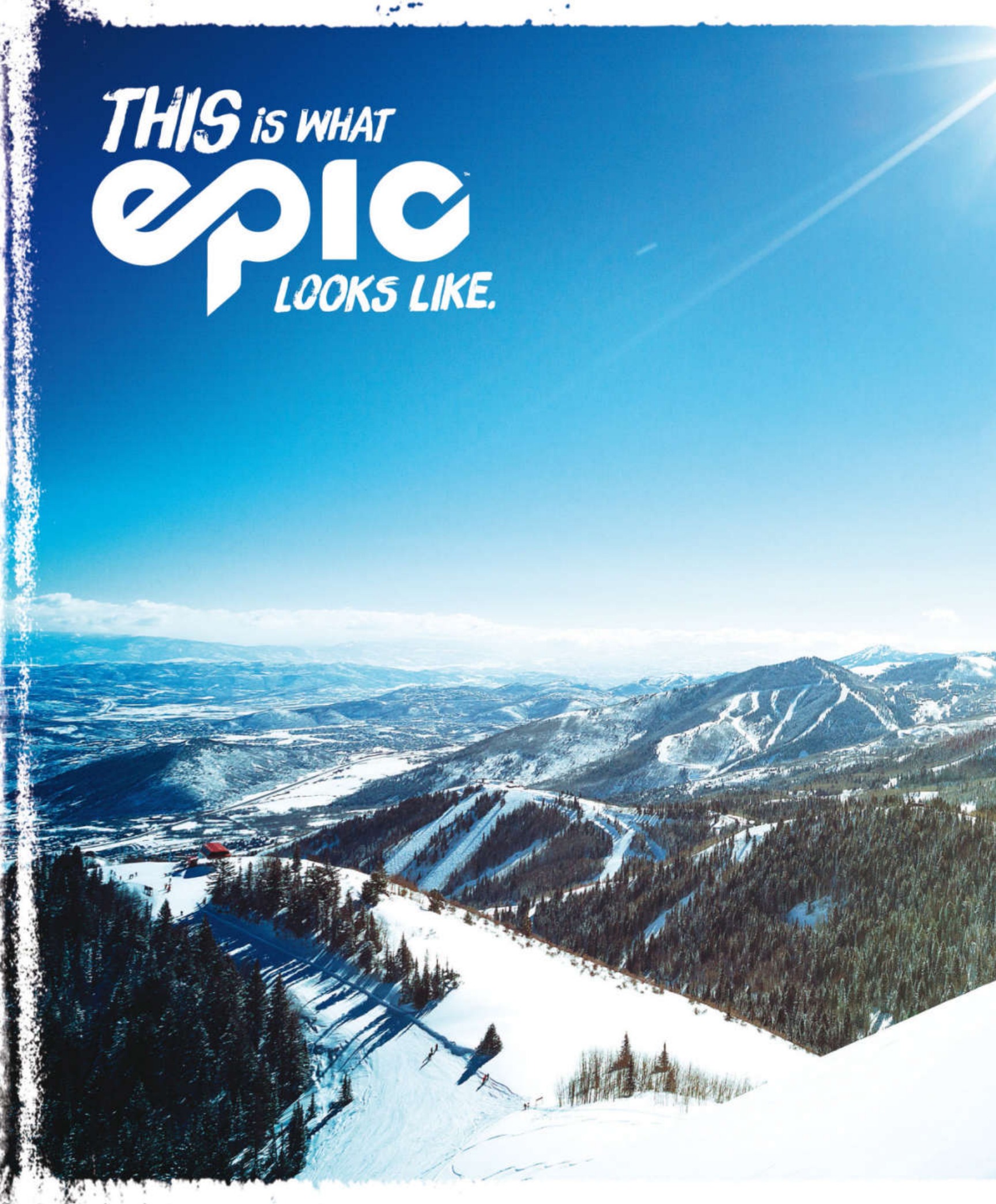
From left: Mud Hen Water; the restaurant's grilled octopus.


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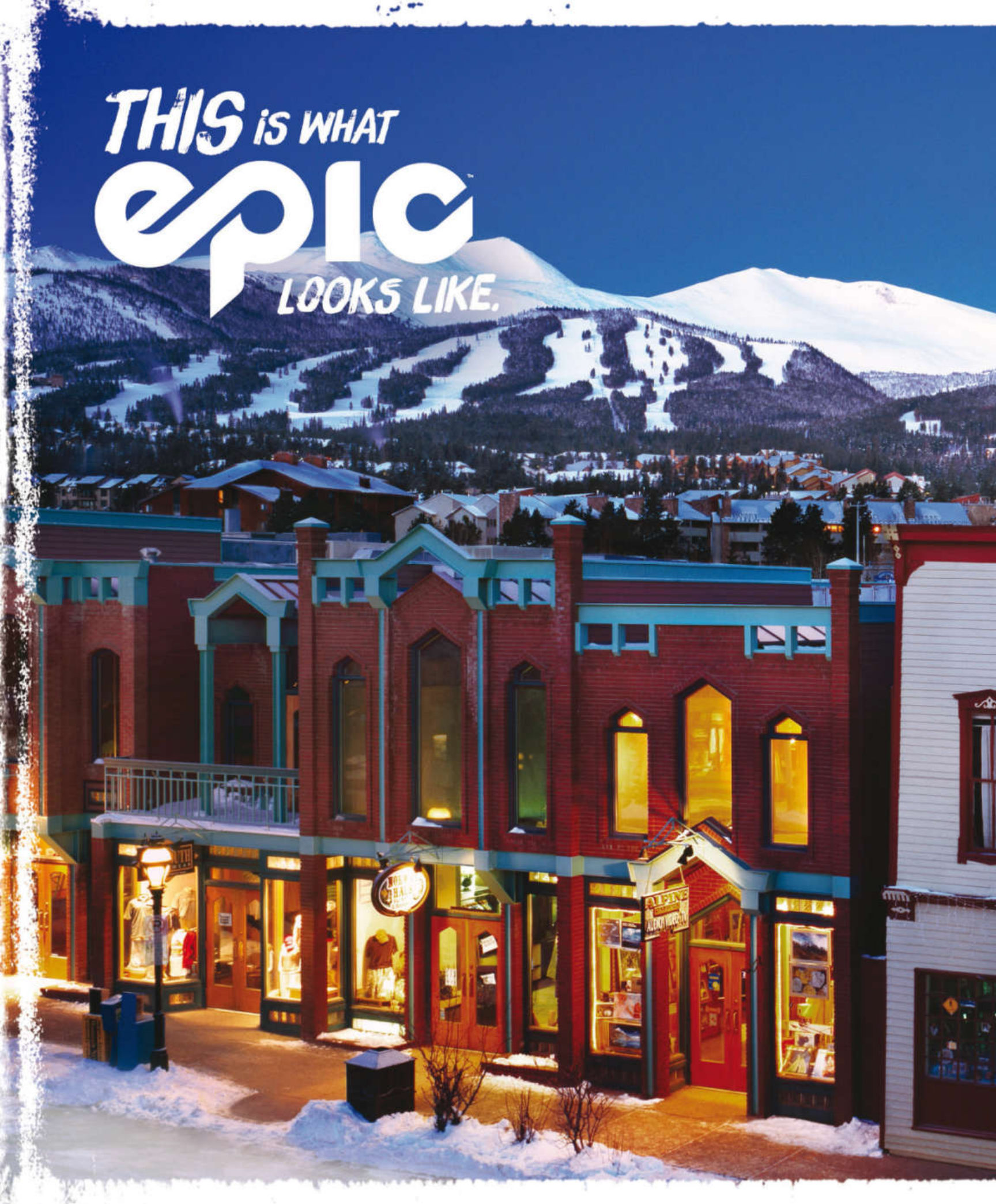

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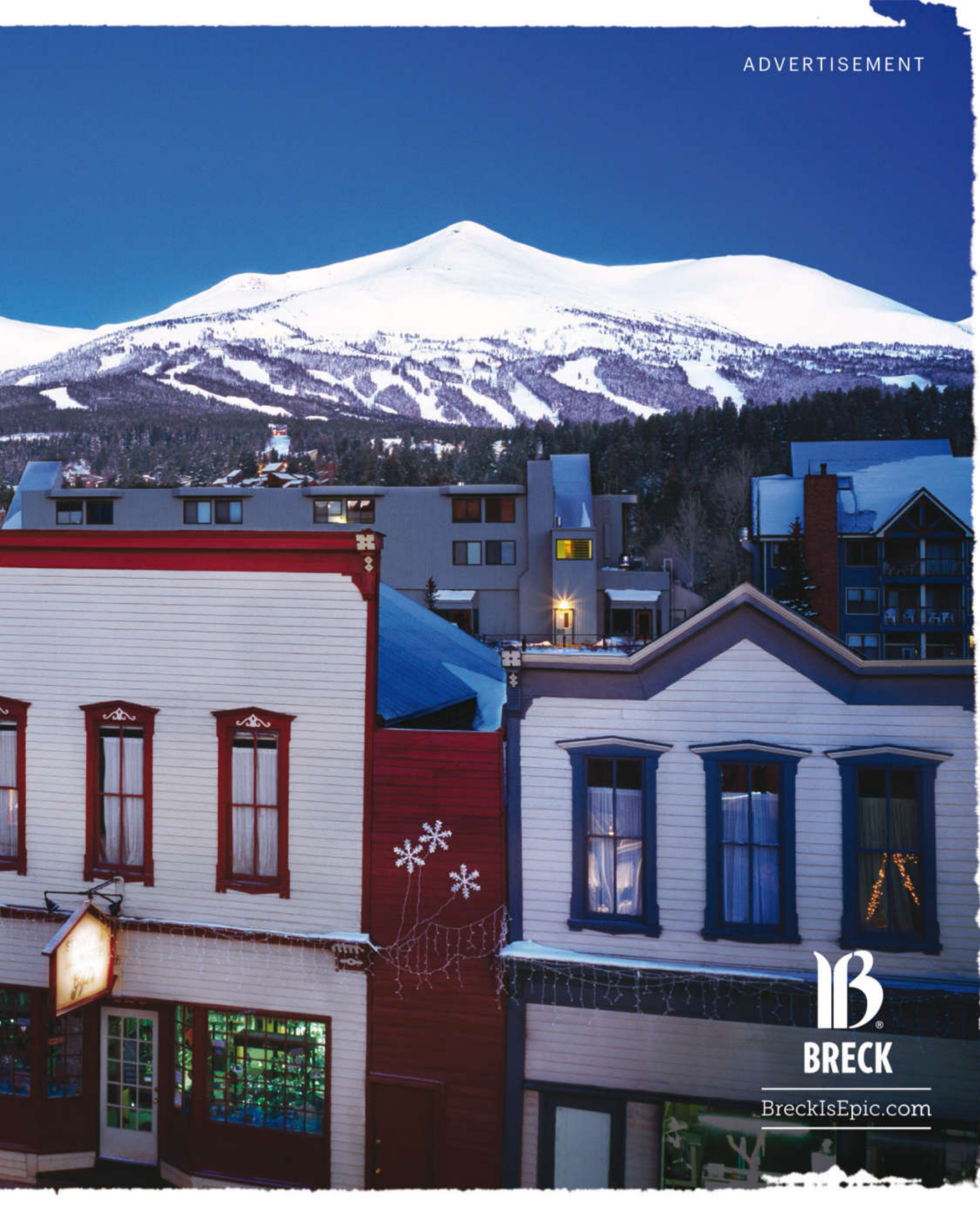


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A Perfect Day on the North Shore

This blissfully crowd-free region feels like an island apart—and you can see all the highlights by sundown.

9 A.M.

Many Waikiki resorts have in-house car-rental desks; you can get a Zipcar at the Pacific Beach Hotel. Pack a bathing suit, a towel, and some sunscreen; then drive northwest from Honolulu on Interstate-H1 before turning north on I-H2 toward Haleiwa.

10 A.M.

Along Haleiwa's main strip, stop for an Oahu-grown medium roast at **Coffee Gallery,** which sources beans from across the islands (66-250 Kamehameha Hwy.).

10:30 A.M.

Drive 15 minutes west on Farrington Highway to **Mokuleia Beach Park,** an often empty and pleasantly remote area with excellent snorkeling and calm waters. If you're lucky, you'll spot humpback whales swimming offshore (930 Farrington Hwy.).

12:30 P.M.

Heading back to Haleiwa, you'll find the **Waialua Sugar Mill,** a refinery turned commercial center where local makers sell everything from chocolate to surfboards (67-106 Kealohanui St.).

1 P.M.

Return to town for lunch at **Cafe Haleiwa,** a casual spot known as much for its banana pancakes and omelets as its mahimahi (66-456 Kamehameha Hwy.).

2 P.M.

Continue 15 minutes north toward the **Waimea Valley,** where centuries-old archaeological sites share space with a remarkable botanical garden that has more than 5,000 species. Make the three-quarter-mile hike up the valley to see Waimea Falls, and, on Thursdays, leave yourself a few minutes to browse one of the island's best farmers' markets, with can't-find-it-elsewhere items like raw local honey and sea asparagus (59-864 Kamehameha Hwy.).

3:30 P.M.

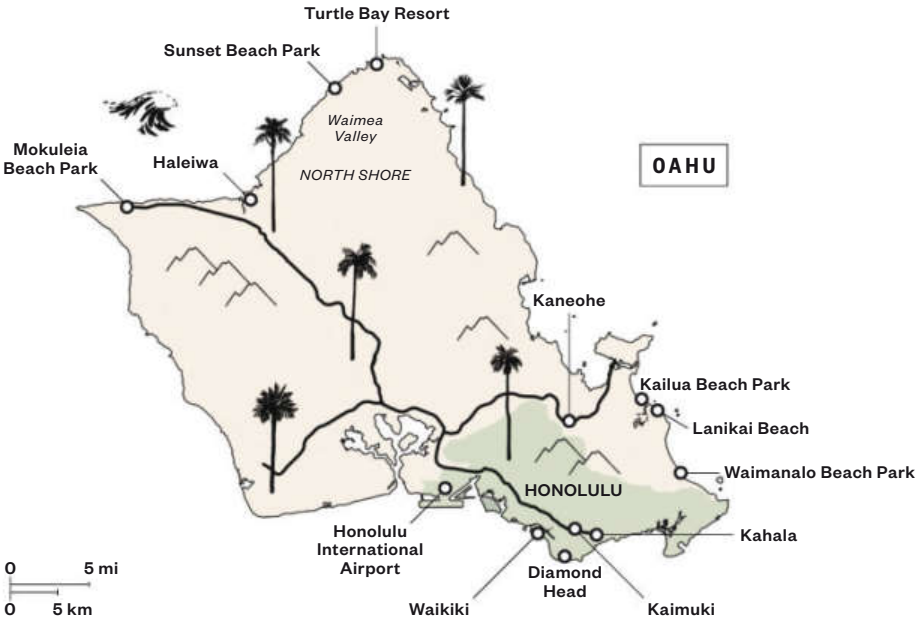
Another 15 minutes away at the very top of Oahu, visit the enormous 850-acre **Turtle Bay Resort.** The newly renovated coastal getaway has horseback riding, sea kayaking, hiking trails, golf courses, and a surf school—some of which are available to day-trippers—but maybe save those for your next visit. Instead, hop onto a helicopter tour ($179 per person for 20 minutes) for an overview of this wild and rugged region (turtlebayresort.com).

4:30 P.M.

Turn back toward Honolulu, but before you switch on the cruise control, pull off at **Sunset Beach Park** for a quick look at surfers braving 10- and even 15-foot-high waves at famous breaks like the Banzai Pipeline (along Kamehameha Hwy.).

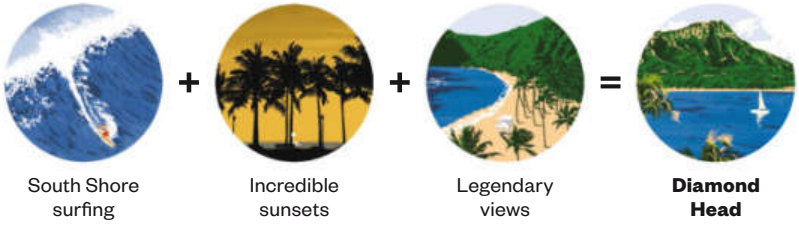
5:30 P.M.

Your final North Shore stop, at the family-owned **Matsumoto Shave Ice,** is also the most quintessential. Don't let long lines deter you from grabbing a sticky-sweet bowl of lychee- or pickled mango–flavored frozen goodness (66-087 Kamehameha Hwy.).



The Beach Decoder

With more than 125 beaches to choose from, these shores offer an abundance of options. We did the math on three favorites.



MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK NERYS



Right: Mid-mod perfection at Honolulu's Liljestrand House.

Buy Hawaiian Style

Where to shop for that effortlessly chic beach aesthetic the locals do so well.

ALOHA BEACH CLUB, Kailua

Skip the cheesy hibiscus-print shirts and come here for your souvenir: The brand's smart T-shirts, tank tops, and board shorts are pieces you'll actually want to wear when you get back to the mainland. The shop also shares space with The Local, which serves the best shave ice in the area (alohabeachclub.com).

OLIVE BOUTIQUE AND OLIVER MEN'S SHOP, Kailua

Husband-and-wife team Parker Moosman and Ali McMahon own and operate these boutiques—one for women, one for men—on the same block. Finds like splendid cotton dresses and M.Nii board shorts are island-life-ready; the custom "Kailua Market Bag" from L.A.–based eco-brand Apolis is made for the beach but can also carry your haul back to the hotel (iheartolive.com; oliverhawaii.com).

OWENS & CO., Honolulu

It's the mini Colette or 10 Corso Como of Honolulu, with jewelry, cross-body bags, soaps, and fragrances, all made by hand locally (owensandcompany.com).

Olive Boutique in Kailua.



PRETEND YOU LIVE HERE

For more space and privacy than you'll find at a big resort, consider renting a house. Sites like HomeAway offer many options, but a specialist such as Anne Pawsat-Dressler of **Hawaii Hideaways** (hawaiihideaways.com) has access to homes you won't find anywhere else—and she can arrange snorkeling trips, surf lessons, and helicopter tours, too. Her Oahu portfolio includes properties for couples (an oceanview condo for $425 a night), families (a waterfront three-bedroom for $1,000 a night), and multi-generational groups (a beachside five-bedroom that sleeps 12 for $3,000 a night).

What to do on a rainy day …

These homes turned museums—all less than 20 minutes from Honolulu's main strip—are case studies in island design.

'IOLANI PALACE, 3.2 miles from Waikiki

A National Historic Landmark, this gorgeous royal estate blends Italianate and Polynesian styles, a singular mashup referred to as American Florentine (the palace is the only example of the form anywhere in the world). Guided tours of the interior offer a window on Hawaii's nineteenth-century monarchy, which was overthrown by the United States in 1893 (iolanipalace.org).

THE LILJESTRAND HOUSE, 4.7 miles from Waikiki

Designed by architect Vladimir Ossipoff, this 1952 residence looks largely the same today as it did when it was completed, down to the arrangement of furnishings throughout the home and the artwork on the walls. Good thing, too: Ossipoff—who once controversially declared a "war on ugliness," which he saw as prevalent in Honolulu—had exquisite taste (theliljestrandhouse.com).

SHANGRI LA, 3.8 miles from Waikiki

Tobacco heiress Doris Duke's fantastical mansion near Diamond Head holds one of the finest collections of Islamic art in the United States. After a honeymoon through the Middle East, Duke gathered more than 2,500 pieces, many of which are on display in her opulent mid-century modern home, built in 1936 and overlooking the Pacific Ocean (shangrilahawaii.org). -JOHN WOGAN

ALMANAC

The Culture Short List

A very brief guide to what's happening around the world this month.

AMSTERDAM
Nov. 13–15: Choreographers Sol León and Paul Lightfoot of Nederlands Dans Theater join another impressive duo, Gabriela Carrizo and Franck Chartier, in the transformative and fantastical new program ***Start Again.***

DALLAS
Nov. 20–March 20: The Dallas Museum of Art's **"Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots"** dives into the artist's lesser-known black paintings, many of which haven't been shown in half a century.

LOS ANGELES
Nov. 1–March 6: The Instagram-bait **Rain Room** opens at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Arrive early: Wait times for MoMA's 2013 installation topped eight hours.

NEW YORK
Nov. 1–22: Catch Robin Rhode's take on Schoenberg's atonal opera *Erwartung* and Wyatt Kahn's jaunty puppet show at **Performa 15.** **Opening Nov. 19:** Al Pacino is back on Broadway in David Mamet's latest, ***China Doll.***

PARIS
Nov. 12: The **Musée Rodin** reopens on the artist's 175th birthday after a complete restoration of the eighteenth-century estate.

SINGAPORE
Nov. 24: The **National Gallery Singapore**'s inaugural exhibition on modern art will be the largest in Southeast Asia (half of the works are on loan from Paris's Centre Pompidou).

Below: A Latiff Mohidin at the National Gallery Singapore.





EATING OUT

The Return of the Sexy Dining Room

Downtown L.A.'s Redbird puts elegant design back on the menu.

After suffering massive damage in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the Italianate Cathedral of St. Vibiana, once the seat of Los Angeles's Catholic Archdiocese, is now home to one of the city's best new restaurants. **Redbird,** which chef Neal Fraser and his wife, Amy Knoll Fraser, opened last December in the former rectory, centers around a stunning courtyard dining room dressed in custom-built, elegantly modern furnishings. The decidedly grown-up aesthetic reminds us that a polished atmosphere is every bit as important as the quality of a restaurant's food: The interior purposely avoids the sort of rugged industrial chic that's come to define every farm-to-table place not just west of Brooklyn but around the world. And the menu is equally impressive, blending deceptively simple renditions of American staples (chicken pot pie, dry-aged rib eye) with clever takes on L.A.'s global food mix (roasted bone marrow with black garlic aioli and spicy kimchi). "Amy and I were trying to design a space that's more reflective of our age and demographic," Neal says. "You want to be able to have a conversation with the person across the table."

–LAURENCE LOWE

SIX MORE BLISSFULLY GROWN-UP RESTAURANTS

The Continental, Hong Kong (thecontinentalhongkong.com)

Gabriel Kreuther, New York (gknyc.com)

Mourad, San Francisco (mouradsf.com)

Spoon and Stable, Minneapolis (spoonandstable.com)

Spring, London (springrestaurant.co.uk)

Vaucluse, New York (vauclusenyc.com)

THE QUESTION

"WHAT'S THE BEST MEAL YOU'VE HAD ON A PLANE?"

Three chefs—all with cookbooks out this fall—give their answers.

"A superb roast chicken on Kuwait Airways. It was dark meat, which you rarely see on planes, with lovely crisp brown onions all over it. On a flight, nothing could be better."
–Madhur Jaffrey, *Vegetarian India* (Knopf)

"A traditional *kaiseki* meal on ANA, from Hong Kong to Tokyo: healthy, fresh, cold, with a little sashimi, a seaweed salad—exactly what you need on a plane."
–Enrique Olvera, *Mexico from the Inside Out* (Phaidon)

"I was sitting a row behind business class on US Airways and somehow convinced the flight attendant to sneak me the warm cookies they feed the folks up front. Each time she passed, I'd flag her down—every half hour for seven hours straight."
–Michael Solomonov, *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHS BY DYLAN & JENI; COLLECTION OF NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE/COURTESY NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

POST

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The Island of Maui

Stumble onto unexpected spots. Meet uncommon people. Experience unpredictable moments. There's more to your Hawai'i vacation than you ever imagined.

Maui is the ideal escape for travelers seeking leisurely adventures and captivating experiences. The second largest of the Hawaiian Islands, it's home to more than 30 miles of pristine beaches, most of them perfect for swimming and paddleboarding. You can also slip into sandals and peruse the resorts that line Wailea Beach for delectable restaurants and stylish boutiques. Sophisticated casual defines the Maui lifestyle, and an effortless silk caftan or kimono-style tunic from Maggie Coulombe's signature collection unites both comfort and grace. The celebrity designer left the mainland's red carpet for Maui's white sands 20 years ago, and she couldn't be more grateful for it.

"Maui has inspired world-renowned chefs and artists in every medium," says the Toronto-raised Coulombe. "There's something organic about the colors, the textures, and the culture that feels so vibrant and alive. There's never a dull moment."

Coulombe has made a name for herself in the fashion world by creating luxurious pieces that wear as beautifully on the beach as they do at dinner. "The island's laid-back yet elevated lifestyle has really helped simplify my line," she says. "I'll go from Haleakalā to a hidden Hāna waterfall and then over to Morimoto for an exquisite meal, all wearing the same dress. It's so Maui!"

When Coulombe isn't designing in her Lāhainā studio or at her boutique in Whalers Village, she's soaking up the lush bounty Hawai'i has to offer. "The raw, natural landscape of the island gives me inspiration every day—but my favorite place is Olowalu. There's one spot where the ocean and mountains actually glow with warmth at sunset."

While Coulombe's work demands jet-setter status, she has no reservations when it's time to leave the concrete and skyscrapers behind. "I've been to resorts all over the globe and coming back to Maui is always special. We have the most beautiful beaches, mountains, and all the luxuries you could ever desire," she says. "I never thought I would live in Hawai'i. I came on vacation and never went back. Now, I feel at home."

The HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

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Maggie Coulombe
Photo by Tony Novak-Clifford











Schwader's extended family prepares a ceremonial meal at their temple, Wat Pha Thangone, just outside Vientiane.

Home Away

When acclaimed New York chef Phet Schwader decided to take his mother to Laos, he thought they'd eat their way through the country they once called home. What he didn't expect? A chance discovery that would change their lives forever.

SOULAYPHET ("PHET") Schwader is peering into a vat of what he calls "The Funk," a distressing brown sludge composed of several types of seafood in varying stages of rot. For Laotians, this pungent sauce, known as *padek*—added to everything from curries to dips—is as comforting, even enticing, as a Westerner might find the smell of chicken stock bubbling away on a stove.

But at Khe-Yo, Schwader's excellent Lao-inspired restaurant in Manhattan's TriBeCa neighborhood, the stuff causes a mass kitchen exodus. "Even my sous chef is like, 'Dude, I can't be here right now,'" says Schwader. "But I get it! Hey, to me, Gorgonzola smells like dirty feet."

Before he began testing his staff's collective olfactory tolerance, Schwader was on a fairly typical career path for a chef: culinary school; long stints of kitchen drudgery, cutting carrots and onions into countless perfect cubes; and ultimately working as a sous under heavyweights like Patricia Yeo and Laurent Tourondel.

Then came the moment of reckoning that befalls so many cooks working at breakneck pace. "You have no holidays, no family," says Schwader. "You give up so much to make steaks and Caesar salads." When his friend Marc Forgione—chef/proprietor of the eponymous restaurant, also in TriBeCa—suggested they open a place together, Schwader took a hard left turn, betting his life savings on an obscure cuisine that, for all its bracing, intricate flavors, barely registers on most Americans' list of culinary cravings.

The food of Laos—marked by loads of herbs, pounded relishes, chilies, and fermented fish—is not for the timid, though by Schwader's own admission, Khe-Yo is not an exclusively Lao restaurant. Many dishes stray far enough from their original inspiration that he is reluctant to assert their authenticity. The first time his mother, Soubanh, visited Khe-Yo, he was nervous about feeding the woman who taught

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LANG


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him everything he knew about Lao food. "I served her my take on *laap*"—a bright, fiery salad of minced fish—"but plated it in a way I thought would look good," he recalls. "And she goes, 'What's this?' and I was like, 'It's *laap*,' and she says, 'No, it's not.'" Then she took a bite and understood.

Schwader learned to cook not in Vientiane or Luang Prabang but while growing up in Wichita, Kansas, home to a sizable Lao diaspora. "Somehow I had both a typical Midwestern upbringing and a typical Lao one," says the chef. He fished, hunted, and camped like a proper Kansas native, but aside from the occasional trip to Pizza Hut, his staples were charred chilies, sour sausage, and The Funk. "It's weird," Schwader admits. "I had eaten Lao food all my life—but never in the place it comes from." Never, that is, until 2011, when he made his first trip back to Laos in 34 years and ate some of the best food of his life. The lessons gleaned from that trip informed the menu at Khe-Yo, which he opened two years later.

A year after that, Schwader wanted to return to Laos, this time with his mother. They hadn't been there together since Schwader was three, when he, his sister, his brother, and his parents fled their village to escape the insurgency that followed the CIA's Secret War. In 1977, the family crossed the Mekong River into northeastern Thailand and settled in a refugee camp in the city of Nong Khai. It was here that his father died—suddenly and without clear cause. In Lao tradition, the dead are cremated but not completely; his father's ashes and bones were transferred to a miniature tiered tower that served as a tombstone and was placed outside a local temple. "From there we went to Bangkok, then to Kansas, and we lost track of his grave," says Schwader.

As mother and son traveled through Laos, they avoided talk of tragedy in favor of food. They spent nine days eating their way from Luang Prabang, the mist-shrouded former capital, to the sleepy modern capital of Vientiane.

Above, from left: A *bánh mì* stand on rue Samsenthai in Vientiane; Schwader at Mok's Shop, a Vientiane noodle bar.

Mother and son couldn't get over the serendipity. "We kept looking at each other," says Schwader, "like, 'Did that really happen?'"

They slurped fish curry at a place where the entire kitchen consisted of a single pot over a fire. They ate rice porridge for breakfast, prepared by a vendor who has made nothing else for decades. They hunched on too-small plastic chairs at an open-air restaurant where a 12-year-old did most of the cooking, dishing out fermented pork belly and papaya salad. Then, as they had done almost 40 years earlier, the two crossed the Mekong into Nong Khai. "When my mom saw it on the itinerary, she was like, 'Why do you want to go there?'"

It was a valid question. Today, Nong Khai is little more than a stopover for backpackers crossing from Thailand into Laos. Yet when he'd gone back, in 2011, Schwader had paid a brief visit to Nong Khai, where he stayed in a small, randomly chosen hotel and had a chance conversation with the owner, who mentioned that there had once been a refugee camp just 500 yards away. Schwader flew home without further exploration but couldn't shake the idea that this was the same camp where his family had lived—and that, just maybe, his father was buried nearby. "I'm not a spiritual person, but I felt his presence at that hotel," he says.

Returning to Nong Khai, this time with his mother, Schwader saw his chance to get answers. Soubanh peppered the driver with the kinds of questions that her son—who speaks better kitchen Spanish than

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KOREA'S TIMELESS TREASURES

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Yeong Bin Gwan, The Shilla Seoul

THE NAME SHILLA HARKENS BACK TO A UNIFIED KOREAN dynasty, one that still evokes pride and honor. Today, the name conjures that heritage for a commitment to excellence. As renowned designer Peter Remedios said about his recent renovation of The Shilla Seoul, "The name connotes absolute dedication to perfection. If it isn't the best, then it isn't good enough." Whether you check in for business or a lovely respite, the one thing you'll find is polished and personalized luxury.

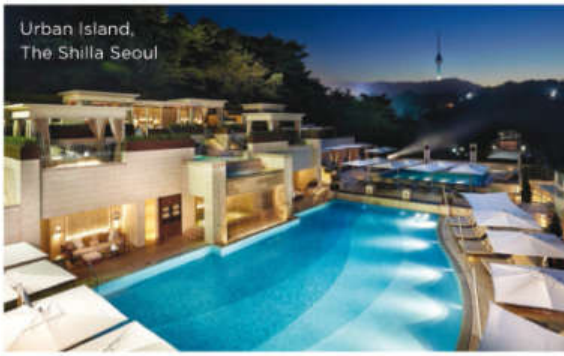
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➤ The mood for your stay at The Shilla Seoul is set before you even alight from the car as you ascend to the five-star hotel's entrance past the exquisite diamond pine trees and resplendent sculptural fountain, teasing a glimpse of what lies beyond on the property's 23-acre estate.

It becomes even more lustrous as you enter the lobby, passing under thousands of cascading crystals raining from the ceiling, and are warmly greeted with the distinguished decorum and impeccable service the establishment is known for.

Take in views of Mount Namsan from your spacious accommodations or from the upgraded first-class Executive Lounge. With Shilla being a Samsung affiliate company, it's no wonder each room is outfitted with the best of tech, with bedside ports galore and 55–65 inch flat-screen smart TVs replete with touchscreen remotes.

(CONTINUED)



Urban Island, The Shilla Seoul

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE SHILLA HOTELS & RESORTS

(CONTINUED)

The six restaurants within the property are destinations in themselves, including the award-winning La Yeon, famed for delivering haute Korean cuisine while honoring ancestral culinary traditions with locally sourced seasonal ingredients.

The finest bespoke service can be found in the arcade shops, while a massive duty free emporium also resides on the hotel's grounds.

To unwind, perch in one of the plentiful poolside cabanas available at Urban Island, or relax your mind with face and body treatments at the acclaimed Guerlain Spa. Then order from the pillow menu to select where you lay your head and dream of another day in this oasis in the heart of the city's bustle.



Executive Lounge, The Shilla Seoul

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—Peter Remedios



The Shilla Jeju

FOR A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS, HANG IN YOUR PERSONAL HAMMOCK IN THE GLAMPING VILLAGE, OR ENJOY THE SUNSET AT AN EXCLUSIVE WINE PARTY.

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PACIFIC STANDARD

➤ From its stunning grounds to its location on the multicolored sands of Jungmun Beach, there's a reason The Shilla Jeju is the most sought-after resort destination in South Korea.

Sit on your private balcony and take in the panoramic ocean views before heading down for a swim in the adjoining indoor and outdoor pools. Activities for children abound, including a supervised kids' club, a jumbo PlayStation® zone, and a Kids' Cabin.

If you're craving culture, take a tour of the on-site gallery and masterpieces, including Salvador Dalí's *Space Venus*, before heading to the spacious spa or Finnish sauna to contemplate those artistic interpretations in a relaxed setting.

For a night under the stars, hang in your personal hammock in the Glamping Village, or enjoy the sunset at an exclusive wine party. Move on to dinner at The Parkview to watch freshly caught seafood prepared in an open-kitchen restaurant. Cap it off with a stroll amid the azaleas in the Soombi Garden and become enchanted with Jeju's spellbinding charm.



Glamping Village, The Shilla Jeju

Clockwise from top left: Schwader's mother making papaya salad for the family's celebration of their return to the village; Schwader's relatives gather at Wat Pha Thangone for a ceremonial meal; the view along Vientiane's avenue Kaysone Phomvihane, looking toward the Patuxai monument.







Lao—wasn't able to ask on his previous trip. "I'm nudging her the whole time," he recalls. "*Mom, ask him about the refugee camp! Mom, ask him about the temple!*" In fact, the driver said that he did know of a Buddhist temple, called Wat Don Sawan, near the site of an old camp.

The following day, mother and son walked to the temple, where they met a monk and asked about Schwader's father. "I don't know that name," he replied, "but you're welcome to look through the cemetery." At first, all they saw were rows of discouragingly pristine tombstones, most of them clearly newer. But just before giving up, they came upon a cluster of older stones, decrepit and obscured by foliage, their Lao inscriptions nearly faded away. Except for one, Schwader noticed, with a barely legible engraving: THONGSAVANH VILAYTHONG. His father's name.

At dawn the next morning, Schwader, with his shaggy mane and cargo shorts, and a monk with close-cropped hair and a long orange robe paired up to lift the top off the stone tower, revealing a hollow where the jar of bones and ashes was kept. Five monks had formed a line beside the grave and began chanting in unison. Per Lao tradition, Schwader cleaned his father's bones and placed them in a bucket, along with flowers, candles, and incense. Soon, he and his mother were in a boat on the Mekong, gathering handfuls of the bowl's contents and scattering them on the river.

On the long plane ride home, mother and son couldn't get over the serendipity. "We kept looking at each other, like, 'Did that really happen?' If I hadn't stayed at that hotel four years ago, or hadn't come back with my mom, or even if we'd waited one more year, his name might have been gone."

The subject eventually returned to food, as most of their conversations do, and both of them hungrily reminisced about all of the dishes they had eaten together—fish curry, rice porridge, bamboo shoot soup, beef jerky, and *naem khao,* fried balls of coconut rice mixed with curry and fish sauce. His mother recalled the *laap* they'd eaten in Vientiane. "It was good," she told her son. "But I like yours better." -JJ GOODE

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Tony Salamé outside his massive Aïshti Foundation.

ART

Beirut Doubles Down

For all the energy of its young, creative scene, Beirut has curiously lacked a major contemporary art museum. Until this fall, when the city unveiled two—and they couldn't be more different. After a seven-year renovation, the **Sursock Museum,** which debuted in the 1960s in a 1912 mansion, has just reopened; the collection showcases Middle Eastern artists like Chafic Abboud, Adel Saghir, and Michel Basbous, but keep an eye out for *Place des Canons,* by David Hockney, who created it while visiting Beirut in '66. If the Sursock is stately and understated, the **Aïshti Foundation** is immense and audacious. Funded entirely by Tony Salamé, the art collector and founder of Lebanon's luxury Aïshti department store, the foundation houses more than 2,000 pieces from his personal collection: The opening exhibit, "New Skin"—curated by Massimiliano Gioni, artistic director of New York's New Museum—features works by some of the greats, including Gerhard Richter, Franz West, and Richard Prince. And be sure to wander outside the David Adjaye–designed structure: Gioni's wife, Cecilia Alemani, chief curator of N.Y.C.'s High Line Art, selected sculptures for the gardens by conceptual artists Sterling Ruby, Jeppe Hein, Giuseppe Penone, and Thomas Houseago. –RIMA SUQI

DRINKING

The Global Bar Crawl



__Leo Robitschek__ has earned a name for himself overseeing the bars at New York's Eleven Madison Park and the NoMad Hotel. (His new cocktail guide, hidden inside The NoMad Cookbook, *is out now.) Here, the Venezuela native shares his go-to haunts in five cities, and the bottle to bring home from each.* AS TOLD TO DARRELL HARTMAN

	Athens	Lima	London	Mexico City	Rome
THE BAR	"The beautiful downtown bar **The Clumsies** uses molecular techniques—never in a showy way—to bring out incredible flavors."	"**La Emolienteria Bar** is a great place for pisco sours, live music, and even shopping—they sell clothes by Lima-based designers."	"**Artesian,** at The Langham hotel, is dead serious about fun: I once got a drink in a flaming skull that was wearing a sombrero."	"**Licorería Limantour,** a two-story joint in Roma Norte, has superbly crafted cocktails and a fantastic *mezcal* selection."	"The **Jerry Thomas Project,** an intimate, wood-lined speakeasy near Chiesa Nuova, has lots of cool little bottles and jars on display."
THE DRINK	"**The Magnetism** is an excellent mix of Zacapa 23 rum, nutty carob water, Muscat liqueur, and coriander-flavored oil."	"Try any of their pisco-spiked ***emolientes*** [traditional grain-based elixirs], made here with quinoa."	"No joke, the **banana daiquiri**! It has amazing green-banana flavor, plus a garnish of caviar on a plantain chip."	"I love the **El Viejo Sour,** which builds off *mezcal,* amaro sour, and Grand Old Parr, a scotch popular in Latin America."	"Somehow I always get the perfectly made **Sazerac,** because it's such an unexpected thing to find in Rome."
THE BOTTLE TO BRING BACK	 "Retsina, the traditional resin wine, is an acquired taste that's worth getting used to: Seek out the **Kechribari** label from Thessaloniki's Kechris winery."	 "**Nusta Pisco** is a local brand that's ideal for a pisco punch—or better yet, sub it for gin to make a 'white' Negroni."	 "**Sipsmith's V.J.O.P.**—a juniper-forward, high-proof gin made right here in West London—is fun to play with in stirred cocktails."	 "**El Viejo Indecente** *mezcal* has vegetal *terroir,* a medium-smoky profile, and a hint of salinity—perfect for a Oaxacan old fashioned."	 "Santa Chiara's five-year-aged ***nocino*** (a green walnut–based liqueur) makes a very cool, autumnal addition to a Manhattan."

TOP: PHOTOGRAPH BY IEVA SAUDARGAITE/COURTESY AÏSHTI FOUNDATION. ILLUSTRATIONS BY JANICE WU

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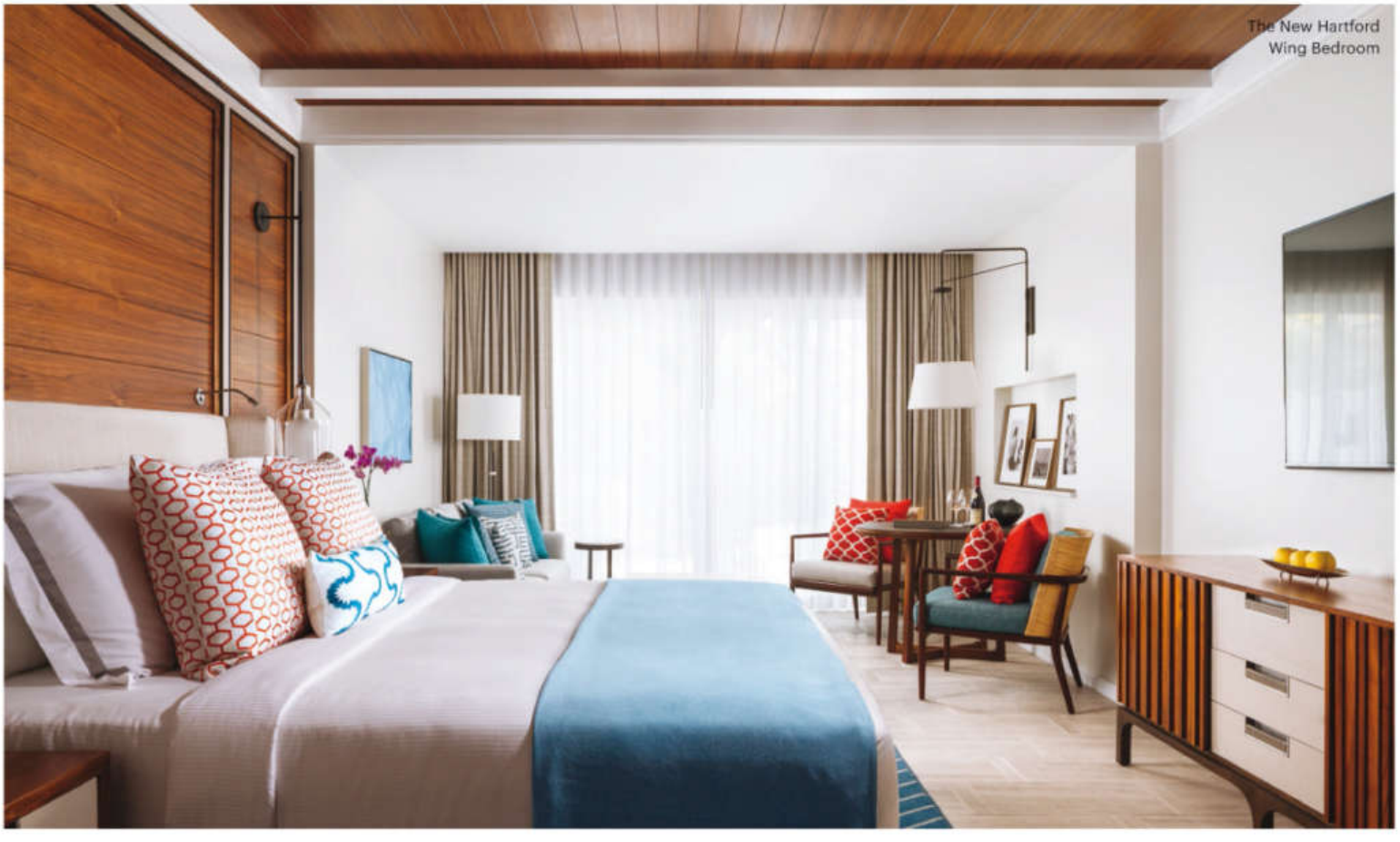
The Hartford Wing has undergone a gracious makeover, with modern furnishings that reflect the palette of the islands. The rooms and suites are even more spacious. The new infinity-edge pool overlooks the pristine shoreline and offers breathtaking views of the horizon. Take a refreshing dip and then wander into the new bar and grill for a delectable light lunch. Stroll through the verdant Versailles Gardens and 12th-century cloisters, then visit the award-winning spa for a massage in your private Balinese-inspired villa.

Later, indulge again—this time, at one of the lauded restaurants. Enjoy an intimate French-Asian meal perched high above the sand at the famed Dune by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, or gather the family for a traditional Bahamian barbecue. With residential-style villas complete with their own pools, One&Only Ocean Club is also an ideal group escape.


One&Only Ocean Club

Whether you desire a discerning getaway for two or want to begin a tradition for generations to come, One&Only Ocean Club exceeds your expectations.

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The New Hartford Wing Bedroom

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY ONE&ONLY RESORTS

POST

NEWS, UPDATES, AND EVENTS FROM THE PUBLISHER OF *CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER*

1 *ENDLESS SUMMER*

Editor-In-Chief Pilar Guzmán hosted an intimate dinner in the Hamptons

2 *ALL ABOARD*

CNT celebrates its September Style & Design issue in New York City

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER'S SUMMER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS.









ABOVE: The evening's gypsy jazz band, The Bailsman. **LEFT:** Sofia Sanchez de Betak, CNT's new contributor.



RIGHT: The farm table aglow with local flowers.





ABOVE: CNT's new Contributing Editor, Carlos Souza of Valentino poses amidst custom artwork commissioned by New York based street artist, Hellbent.





1/*AUGUST 28*

Friends of CNT gathered for a final toast to summer at the stunning Inn at Windmill Lane hotel in Amagansett, NY.



ABOVE: Guests enjoyed a rustic family style meal, with wines provided by Stemmari and Rotari Vineyards.

LEFT: Fresh oysters, a Hamptons summer staple.



2/*SEPTEMBER 9*

To kick off New York Fashion Week, CNT fêted its new format and new contributors on Grand Banks, the historic schooner-turned-oyster bar on the Hudson River. On deck, guests got cozy with Serena & Lily rugs and pillows.



ABOVE: The sun sets on the water making a perfect evening

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN LIU (HAMPTON'S EVENT), MATTEO PRANDONI/BFA.COM (GRAND BANKS EVENT)

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THANKSGIVING TRAVEL SPECIAL

(Not) Home for the Holidays

Enough with the "obli-cation." How about a proper, legitimate vacation?

Listen, as far as we know, there's no rule that says Thanksgiving has to revolve around undercooked turkey, half-baked conversation, or overcrowded flights to places you didn't want to visit in the first place. (We meet again, in-laws' guest room!) That's why this year we're giving you a pass. Take the long weekend, or hell, take the whole week—it's only three days out of school for the kids—and flee the holiday grind. Embrace an American tradition (other than your own), or go somewhere off-script and unexpected. Now give thanks and get out of town.

The Lakehouse restaurant at Napa Valley's Calistoga Ranch. (Wouldn't you rather be here for Thanksgiving?)

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY CALISTOGA RANCH/AN AUBERGE RESORT

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ARRIVAL: BERLIN

Simply Schnitzel

Inspired by the way millennials travel and explore the world, ***Condé Nast Traveler*** presents a new series of top-trending global destinations. We've partnered with Samsung Home Appliance to bring these travels home.

Berlin has become as famous for its food as its beer gardens. From giant pretzels and crispy schnitzel to iconic currywurst and spaetzle, the German capital is a haven for some of the best food in the world. And after you've toured the best of Berlin's can't-miss restaurants and libationary beer halls, you'll of course want to recreate each culinary experience at home.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PETEERS/GETTY IMAGES

RECREATE THE FLAVOR

With the Samsung Flex Duo™ Range With Dual Door, you can cook two dishes at two different temperatures at the same time—so you can recreate all the amazing flavors from your travels with ease.



ONE OF THE BEST DISHES TO TRY IS A HEALTHY twist on Berlin's classic pork schnitzel, which is traditionally served with spaetzle (German egg noodles) and gravy or pommes (fries). As an alternative to pan frying, we recommend oven-frying, using convection to fry the pork at super-high heat. This way, you'll get the same tender and crispy texture without the mess or fat of frying.

And with Samsung's Electric Flex Duo® Range with Dual Door,™ you can cook the schnitzel and your favorite German side dish in the same oven at the same time. The ingenious Smart Divider and Dual True Convection system lets you cook the schnitzel to perfection at 450° in the top section, and your pommes at 350° in the lower section—and without any aroma or flavor transfer. It's like having two ovens in one.

The unique middle-hinged door lets you open just the top section to check your schnitzel, or the full oven, for total flexibility and energy efficiency. If your schnitzel and pommes are done, you can keep them ready to serve at the perfect temperature in the warming drawer while you finish simmering your spaetzle on the flexible electric cooktop. And when your guests are gone and it's time to clean up, the Steam Clean setting will make your oven spick-and-span in 20 minutes—leaving you more time to plan your next German culinary adventure.

Divide and conquer.



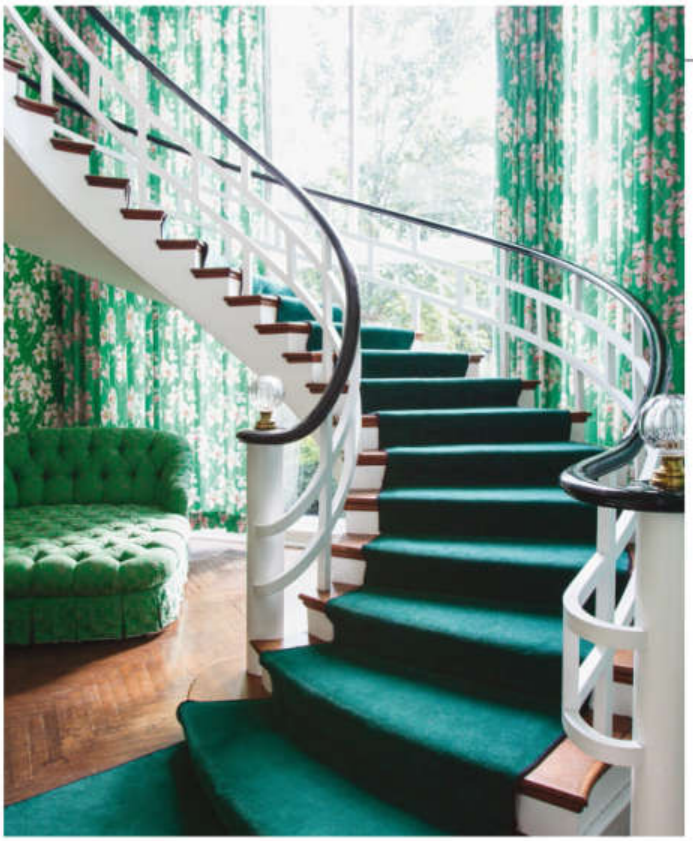
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The Classic Holiday

The Greenbrier

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

For pure Amurrican Southern comfort, liquid and otherwise.

Sure, it looks like the White House on steroids, and its quaint formalities (dinner dress codes, red-jacketed carriage drivers) might throw some people off. But after almost 240 years in business, The Greenbrier defines tradition. And a bit of earnest American nostalgia hits our wheelhouse this time of year. (Carleton Varney's note-perfect redo, inspired by Dorothy Draper's original mid-century decor, is a big plus.)

WHAT YOU'LL GET
Something for everyone: 150 roasted free-range turkeys, with all the trimmings imaginable; a family scavenger hunt; Black Friday sales at the resort's 37 stores; a Saturday Christmas tree lighting; tennis clinics; five golf courses; indoor swimming; bowling and falconry for the kids; spa treatments from natural springs to Botox; and a casino. You won't get bored, that's for sure.

HOW TO DO IT
Stick with the retro theme and arrive at the resort by Amtrak train from New York, Chicago, or Washington, D.C. Or drive from the airport in D.C. (four and a half hours) or in Charleston, West Virginia (two hours).

Add-on Book a room at D.C.'s Hay-Adams hotel—for views of the *actual* White House—and visit the excellent Museum of the American Indian (where the Mitsitam Native Foods Café serves fare that might have starred at the first Thanksgiving).

Calistoga Ranch

CALISTOGA, CALIFORNIA

For better food—and way better wine—than your aunt will have.

Our favorite Napa Valley hideaway, the family-friendly sister resort to nearby Auberge du Soleil gathers 50 lodge-like guest rooms in a cluster of cedar-shingled bungalows. Each has warming outdoor hearths and near-floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook 157 acres of forested hills which abut a huge nature conservancy.

WHAT YOU'LL GET
Full Napa immersion: vinotherapy spa wine baths; a 5,000-plus-bottle wine cave; hiking through vineyards; cooking classes with the brilliant chef Bryan Moscatello, newly arrived from Aspen's Little Nell; a four-course, locally sourced Thanksgiving dinner with options well beyond turkey (venison loin with chanterelles and huckleberries; roasted quail with goat cheese, lavender, and apricot); and use of one of the resort's six Mercedeses.

HOW TO DO IT
Calistoga is just an hour and 40 minutes from San Francisco—hire a driver and stop at wineries for tastings en route.

Add-on Extend the bacchanal in S.F.: Book a room at the Palace Hotel, a Beaux Arts classic, and dine at Middle'terranea, Michael Mina's Medi/Cali-style pop-up; and Fat Noodle, a Chinese joint from the guys behind Umami Burger and Saison.

Wheatleigh

LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

For New England without the chintz.

What a relief to stay in the Berkshires and be spared the frumpy doilies and floral bedspreads. With unerringly chic interiors by Tsao & McKown, this nineteenth-century Italianate mansion is up-to-date in all the right ways (celadon accents, spare but plush furnishings, superb food). And it's on 22 parklike acres, originally laid out by Frederick Law Olmstead, just outside the quaint-but-not-kitschy town of Lenox.

WHAT YOU'LL GET
A four-course Thanksgiving dinner centered on an organic D'Artagnan turkey (with leg and thigh confited in duck fat), served in the relaxed library or the big-windowed dining room; quiet time with the kids (normally adults-only, Wheatleigh tolerates children for the holiday, though you'll want to keep them on a tight leash); and access to the nearby Norman Rockwell Museum (what could be more American?) and MASS MoCA, an hour away.

HOW TO DO IT
Wheatleigh is offering four nights for the price of three over the holiday, so a long weekend is a no-brainer. And it's just a quick, scenic drive from many Northeast cities (an hour from Albany and Hartford, two and a half from Boston, three from N.Y.C.).

Add-on Head east to Boston and check out the Harvard Art Museums' Renzo Piano–designed redo; stay at the very Wheatleigh-like XV Beacon hotel.



FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHS BY INGALLS PHOTO; COURTESY THE WHEATLEIGH

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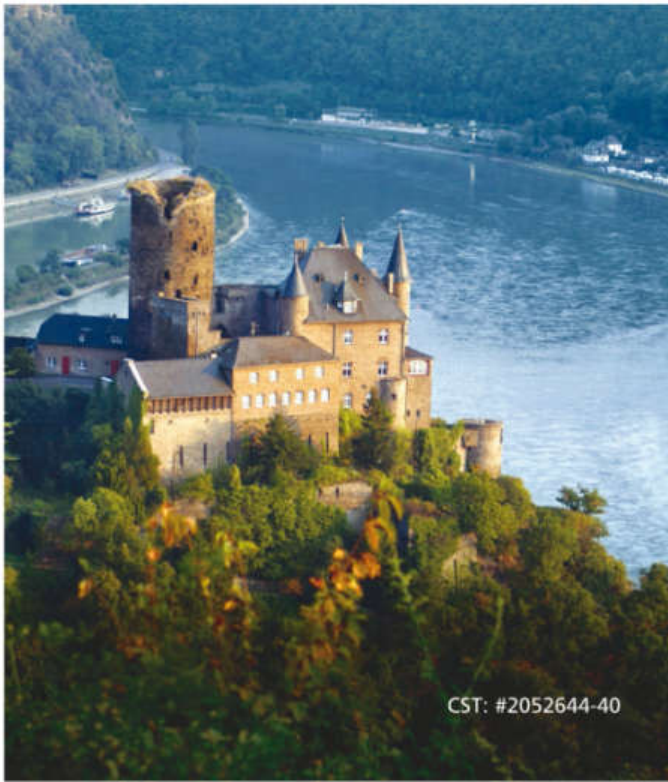
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The Unexpected Escape

Soho Farmhouse

CHIPPING NORTON, ENGLAND

Honor the Pilgrims' progress, in reverse.

When playing gentleman farmer, we prefer to do it Soho House–style, at this new outpost from the natty U.K. hospitality group. Here, a seven-bedroom eighteenth-century farmhouse, along with a stone cottage and 40 contemporary lakeside log cabins, channels a pastoral village on 100 acres of Cotswolds countryside.

WHAT YOU'LL GET
More than 500 different types of fruits and vegetables from a farm overseen by Michelin-honored chef Tom Aikens; all-day breakfast and cocktails delivered in reconditioned milk carts; Wellington boots for hiking and Foffa bikes for cycling; and a fabulous spa set on its own island.

HOW TO DO IT
Fly to Heathrow and rent a car; it's a 90-minute drive to Oxfordshire.

Add-on A culture-packed week in London (easing any guilt about the kids missing school): See "The World Goes Pop" exhibition at Tate Modern; Ai Weiwei at the Royal Academy; and Tom Stoppard's abridged, tween-friendly *Merchant of Venice* at the Ambassadors Theatre. Continue the Soho House theme with a stay at the group's boho-chic Dean Street Townhouse.





Belle Mont Farm at Kittitian Hill

ST. KITTS

For a locavore feast in the sun-splashed Caribbean.

We've loved this 400-acre plantation-style retreat since it opened last year, and this season it kicks it up another notch, with new restaurants and a golf course joining the sea-view bungalows. Even better? The kitchen and organic farm are guided by the locavore pioneers at New York's Blue Hill.

WHAT YOU'LL GET
Tan and tipsy: private pools and local-rum tastings; island-tinged Thanksgiving dishes like West Indian stuffed chicken and pumpkin-and-breadfruit-dumpling soup, served at an outdoor farm table; foraging and cooking sessions; mountain hikes; in-room yoga and alfresco massages.

HOW TO DO IT
Make it a long weekend, flying in via Miami or Puerto Rico—the resort is a 30-minute drive from the airport. Or skip commercial flights and use the recently opened private-jet terminal.

Add-on Pair mountainside Belle Mont with the beachfront Four Seasons Resort Nevis, a ferry ride away on the neighboring island of Nevis.

Red Mountain Resort and Spa

ST. GEORGE, UTAH

When you'd rather be *om* for Thanksgiving.

We like to stay as in shape as the next guy, but five-almonds-a-day, no-booze detoxes sound god-awful at this time of year. This refreshingly sane retreat—on a big-view perch amid the canyons of southern Utah—lets us have our cardio and eat our cake, too.

WHAT YOU'LL GET
Full and fit: Southwest-flavored menus; guided morning hikes; outdoor yoga sessions; nature-inspired treatments; classes with a visiting fitness guru; and a break from the kids (the resort is for ages 12 and up). Plus, Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks are less than three hours away by car.

HOW TO DO IT
Book an all-inclusive retreat, with or without spa treatments, and drive in from Las Vegas (two hours away) or from St. George (15 minutes).

Add-on Extend for a whole week and return to real life like new. Or, if you want to earn those hikes, kick things off with a weekend in Vegas. -ANDREW SESSA

FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY SOHO FARMHOUSE; ALICE GAO

CNT

INFORMER

WHERE WE'RE GOING, AND WHAT WE'RE DOING

NEXT.


Boulders Beach

GAME ON IN SOUTH AFRICA

➤ THE WORD *SAFARI* CONJURES up images of dusty elephants, lions lounging in the sun, and zebra herds running black-and-white on the horizon—but that's only the beginning. Add in the horned rhinos, painted dogs, African penguins, and enormous horizons that seem to stretch on forever and you have a better picture. The South African safari is even more magnificent than it's played up to be, and this must-see list ensures no bushveld or big game goes unseen.

1. KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Stretching over 7,500 square miles, Kruger is arguably one of the world's greatest national parks. The number of animals is almost unparalleled, and the iconic Big 5 game—elephant, lion, leopard, rhino, and Cape buffalo—roam freely between the Lebombo Mountains and tropical forests.

2. BOULDERS BEACH

The Cape Town coastline offers breathtaking beaches, but none are more intriguing than Boulders Beach. With towering granite boulders and shallow pools perfect for exploring, it's irresistible both to travelers and some amazing others. The beach is home to a colony of over 2,000 endangered African penguins.

3. ADDO ELEPHANT PARK

When Addo was founded in 1931, only a handful of elephants lived there. Today, more than 600 of these regal creatures call South Africa's third-largest national park


Addo Elephant Park

home. Keep your eye on Algoa Bay as well, where you may spot great whites and whales, making this park one of the few able to boast the "Big 7."

4. MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

Madikwe offers loads of Big 5 wildlife plus luxurious lodging among red sand and clay thorn bush veld. But perhaps Madikwe's greatest allure is its packs of painted dogs, or the African wild dog. This beautiful marble-colored species flourishes here, but pay attention—your first sighting is likely to be a blur due to do their wily speed.

5. ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK

This sprawling UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to multiple distinctively different ecosystems, including reefs, beaches, wetlands, and woodlands. Leatherback turtles nest along its shores, whales and dolphins swim offshore, and antelopes, hippos, and zebras roam. iSimangaliso means "miracle" in Zulu. It's easy to understand why.

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DORADO BEACH

EXQUISITE ESCAPE

Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve is an exotic sanctuary tucked away on Puerto Rico's northern coast.







➤ **FRAMED BY A STUNNING CARIBBEAN COASTLINE AND** turquoise lagoons, Dorado Beach is a private hideaway that beckons the most discerning of travelers. A stone's throw from the bustle of San Juan but an entire world away, this is where simple pleasures and decadent service intermix for a truly unforgettable experience.

Golden sands and coral reefs surround the property, which was once a resort retreat of Laurance Rockefeller. Each of the impeccably appointed 115 ocean view rooms, suites, and residences are just steps from the sea and boast oversize soaking tubs and romantic outdoor showers, in addition to a personal Embajador to attend your every need. Architecture enthusiasts will swoon over Su Casa, the property's five-bedroom hacienda now restored to embody the full grandeur of the 1920s resort.

When it's time to venture outside your sanctuary, explore the sprawling, verdant grounds or hike along the intriguing 11-mile Rockefeller Nature Trail, go paddleboarding, or grab a mask for an afternoon of snorkeling. Or just lounge by the pool with a perfectly chilled cocktail before wandering into Spa Botánico for a revitalizing holistic treatment. Prepare to indulge yet again at Mi Casa, helmed by James Beard Award—winning chef José Andrés, where the fine cuisine offered blends delectable local ingredients with innovative culinary techniques.

Reserve your escape to Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve and, for a limited time, pay for a three-night stay and receive a complimentary fourth—an exceptional offer at this exceptional enclave, because you will never want to leave.

To inquire about our Dorado Escape offer, please contact your travel professional or call In-House Reservations at 787-278-7333.

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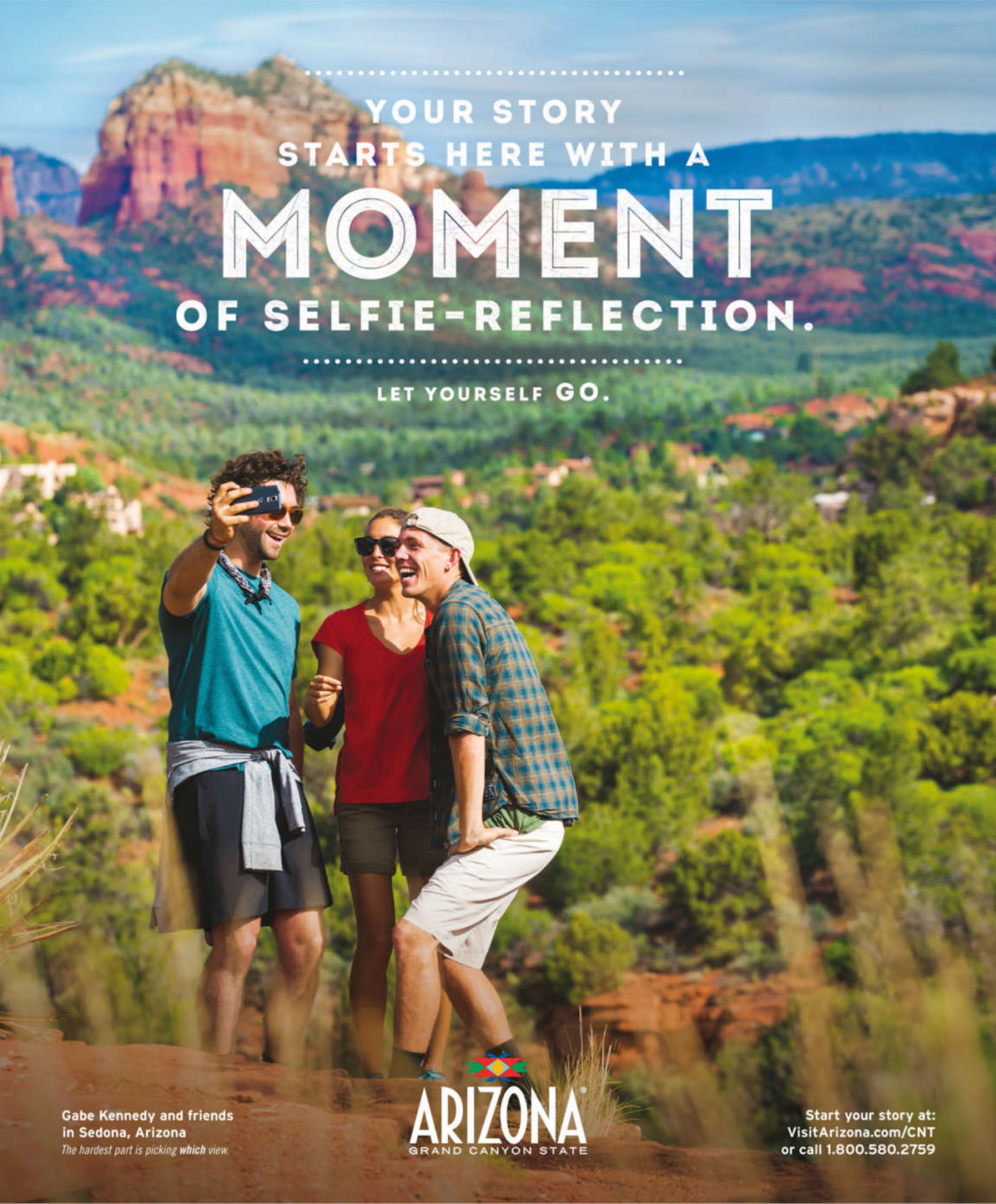
Arrive spellbound.
Depart speechless.

_____ *noun* / **1**: the feeling of serenity that overcomes you when you're soaking in the healing waters of an open-air bath hidden in a tropical forest.

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Sedona, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ARIZONA

PUTTING ANY NERVES AND FEARS ASIDE, EVERYONE ENJOYED THE CHALLENGES PUT BEFORE THEM.

SEDONA

After a stop at Verde Valley's Page Springs Cellars, our group of adventurers made the quick 20-minute jaunt to Sedona's Amara Resort & Spa. While others enjoyed eclectic native décor, impressive red-rock views, and creekside relaxation, Chelsea indulged with an in-room massage that really set the mood for Sedona. Later, after a little more exploring and picturesque selfies, it was time to rally for a well-deserved dinner at the new hot spot, Amara's SaltRock Southwest Kitchen. It's easy to see, and taste, how this place delivers on serving Southwestern fare with a heightened level of creative sophistication.



Proper Meats + Provisions

FLAGSTAFF

The scenic and mountainous drive to Flagstaff kept the eyes wide and smiles big. Adventure was certain for this group's first visit to the Flagstaff area. The first stop would soon separate the players from the talkers with an adrenaline-packed treetop challenge at Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course and mountain biking at Fort Tuthill Bike Park. Putting any nerves and fears aside, everyone enjoyed the challenges put before them. And appetites were a brewin' before long. So, the natural solution was a bite to eat from Proper Meats + Provisions served up at the neighboring Historic Brewing Company. Of course, a sampling of savory craft beers rounded out the meal for a perfect pairing. Together, it served as a fantastic send-off to our next location.

Like what Arizona is serving up for our team of adventurers? Learn more about these great places at **AZExpedition.com**.

*Social media usernames provided are for each personality's Instagram account.

ARIZONA BRAND CANYON STATE

ARIZONA EXPEDITION





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"If you never go, you'll never know," says avid adventurer and photographer-filmmaker Jimmy Chin's approach to life—and to one Wyoming winter morning in particular. Chin had set out to hike into Amora Vida, a steep, couloir tucked deep into the south face of the Tetons. The sub-zero winds were brutal when he began the trek at the break of dawn, but Chin refused to let that stop him. "Amora Vida had been on my list for a long time. I wasn't about to go home."

Chin's perseverance wasn't the only thing that kept him forging forward that morning. He was prepared. He had packed ample climbing and avalanche equipment the night before, and the right outerwear. "In the Tetons, your life can depend on your clothing," he says. "GORE-TEX® outerwear is the benchmark for lightweight, wind- and waterproof protection, and I was outfitted in GORE-TEX® gear from head-to-toe. I felt confident about the climb."

Chin's expert backcountry experience eventually paid off. After a grueling, three-hour approach into Garnet Canyon, he finally dropped down into the protected face to find perfect conditions. "It was monumental," Chin says. "Calm air, an incredible pitch, and two feet of powder. You never know what you'll find. You just have to get out there."

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WHATEVER THE WEATHER

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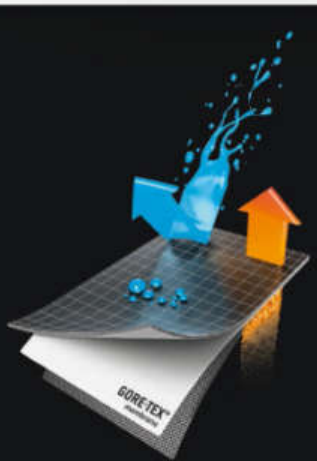
David Lama
Extreme Mountaineer

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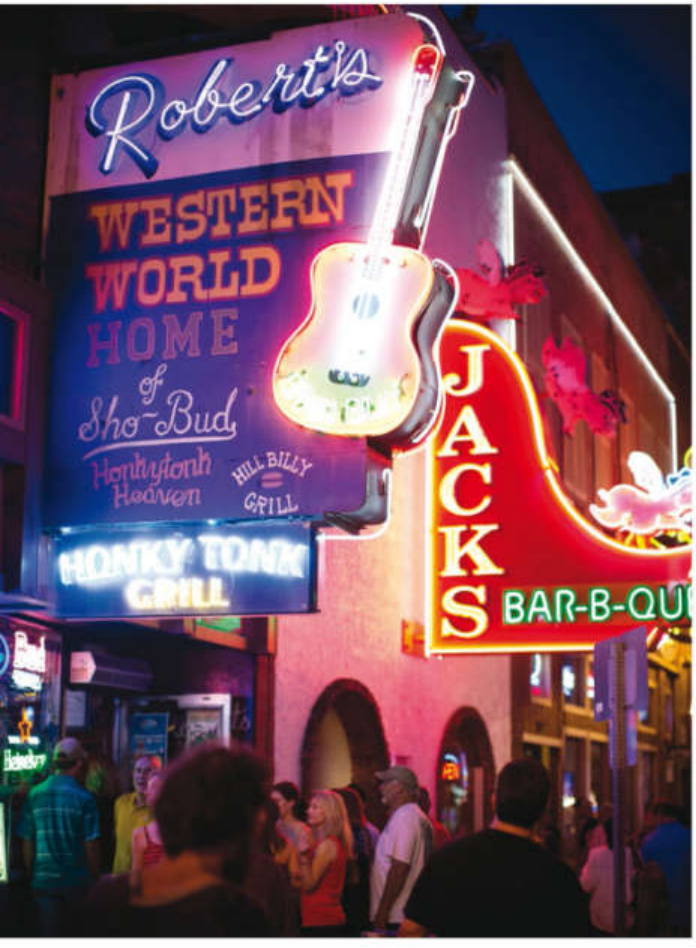
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

BEYOND THE MUSIC



ITS MUSICAL ROOTS RUN DEEP, AND THERE IS ONLY one Music City. But modern-day Nashville continues its emergence as a cultural and creative powerhouse. From the Grand Ole Opry to jazz club cocktails, chef-driven restaurants to traditional Southern meat-n-three, trendy boutiques to local fashion—Nashville's got it.



In Nashville it all begins with a song, and those songs are meant to be experienced at historic venues like the Ryman Auditorium and Bluebird Cafe, where some of the greatest singer-songwriters in the world have performed. But don't overlook the city's lesser-known venues. With over 150 and counting, you can catch an incredible live performance every night of the week.

Nashville's newest rising star can be found in the creative world of the growing culinary scene. From Southern fare to haute cuisine, come hungry. What started as a local food truck, Biscuit Love, is the go-to hotspot in the Gulch District. The biscuit burger with pimento cheese will have you worshipping at the flour-and-butter altar. The Indian fusion is otherworldly at Chauhan Ale & Masala House. Of course, no trip to Music City is complete without a Nashville original—hot chicken. Check out Hattie B's and choose your own heat, from mild to shut the cluck up.

The city also offers plenty to satisfy the cultural appetite. The Belcourt Theatre shows intriguing independent and classic films. Spend a day with the arts at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts or one of the many art galleries, or pick from the slew of independent boutiques.

With an orchestra of options to satisfy every taste, you'll be encouraged to dance to the beat of your own drummer in Music City.

MODERN-DAY NASHVILLE CONTINUES ITS EMERGENCE AS A CULTURAL AND CREATIVE POWERHOUSE.



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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A glorious mountain sunset during winter. The National Gingerbread House Competition. Candlelight Christmas Evenings at Biltmore.



RECAPTURE A LITTLE HOLIDAY MAGIC IN ASHEVILLE. STEP OFF THE CROWDED MALL ESCALATOR AND COME UP THE MOUNTAIN.

ASHEVILLE, NC

WELL-SEASONED

This holiday season, come up for air.

REMEMBER WHEN THERE WAS MORE TO THE HOLIDAYS THAN UNTANGLING Christmas lights and looking for the tape dispenser? Recapture a little holiday magic in Asheville. Step off the crowded mall escalator and come up the mountain for unique shopping, festive events, and award-winning restaurants where the Foodtopians of Asheville serve up inventive farm-to-table cuisine.

One of the shining stars of Asheville during the holidays is George Vanderbilt's 250-room Biltmore Estate, all decked out in its holiday finery. Take in the grandeur, then head over to Historic Biltmore Village for the Old-Fashioned Dickens of a Christmas Festival, with strolling carolers, chestnut roasting, and carriage rides.

But Biltmore isn't Asheville's only unique holiday home tour. At the Omni Grove Park Inn, you can catch an amazing display of gingerbread houses from the 23rd Annual National Gingerbread House Competition. When night falls, head over to the *Winter Lights* at the North Carolina Arboretum. Experience new animated displays that illuminate to the sounds of holiday music.

Online shopping not doing it for you this year? Playing Santa is fun again in Downtown Asheville, with more than 20 galleries filled with treasures for under the tree. And just a few miles from Downtown is the River Arts District, home to 180 artists who find inspiration along the French Broad River.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY ASHEVILLE CVB











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ASHEVILLE
Discovery, inside and out

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

PARADISE FOUND

What relaxation really feels like

HILTON HEAD ISLAND IS THE PERFECT PLACE to both lose—and rediscover—yourself. Warm, breathtaking beaches, lush greenery, and an elevated yet at-ease energy make it the ideal winter getaway.



Soak up the golden island sunshine, pristine marshes, and lush moss-covered Southern oaks. Embark on a culinary adventure with fresh seafood harvested from local waterways. Get into the swing of things on world-renowned golf courses or take your own nature walk on water—using a kayak or paddle board—and get to know our wild dolphins. Relaxing is easy along the island's beautiful beaches, and don't miss the one-of-a-kind boutiques and galleries. Relax, linger, and enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Hilton Head Island.

LEFT: An evening on Hilton Head Island beach at sunset

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY HILTON HEAD ISLAND VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

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Nathaniel Russell House

the many charms of CHARLESTON



A jewel box city that looks like it has been painted in watercolor, Charleston, South Carolina, is a visual feast of cobblestone streets, pastel colored homes, flickering carriage lanterns, and historic landmarks.

Travelers love Charleston, where church steeples–not skyscrapers–dot the skyline. Life is accompanied by a gentle rustling of palmetto fronds and lyrical sea island accents. Every meal is savored and no one is a stranger for long.

"Charleston's classic hotels embody the notion of Southern hospitality—elegant furnishings, airy spaces, excellent service." — *Condé Nast Traveler*

There are 69 flights that touch down daily in Charleston and more on the way, including new nonstop transcontinental service. Getting here has never been easier. Isn't it time you discovered for yourself what so many other travelers already love about Charleston?



Charleston Grill



Hank's Seafood Restaurant

LOCAL FLAVOR
Home to a volume of world-class dining normally associated with cities five times its size, this idyllic destination is a vibrant playground for culinary talent.

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JOHN RUTLEDGE HOUSE INN
johnrutledgehouseinn.com

KIAWAH ISLAND GOLF RESORT
kiawahresort.com

KINGS COURTYARD INN
kingscourtyardinn.com

MARKET PAVILION HOTEL
marketpavilion.com

PLANTERS INN
plantersinn.com

THE RESTORATION ON KING
restorationonking.com

THE VENDUE
thevendue.com

WENTWORTH MANSION
wentworthmansion.com

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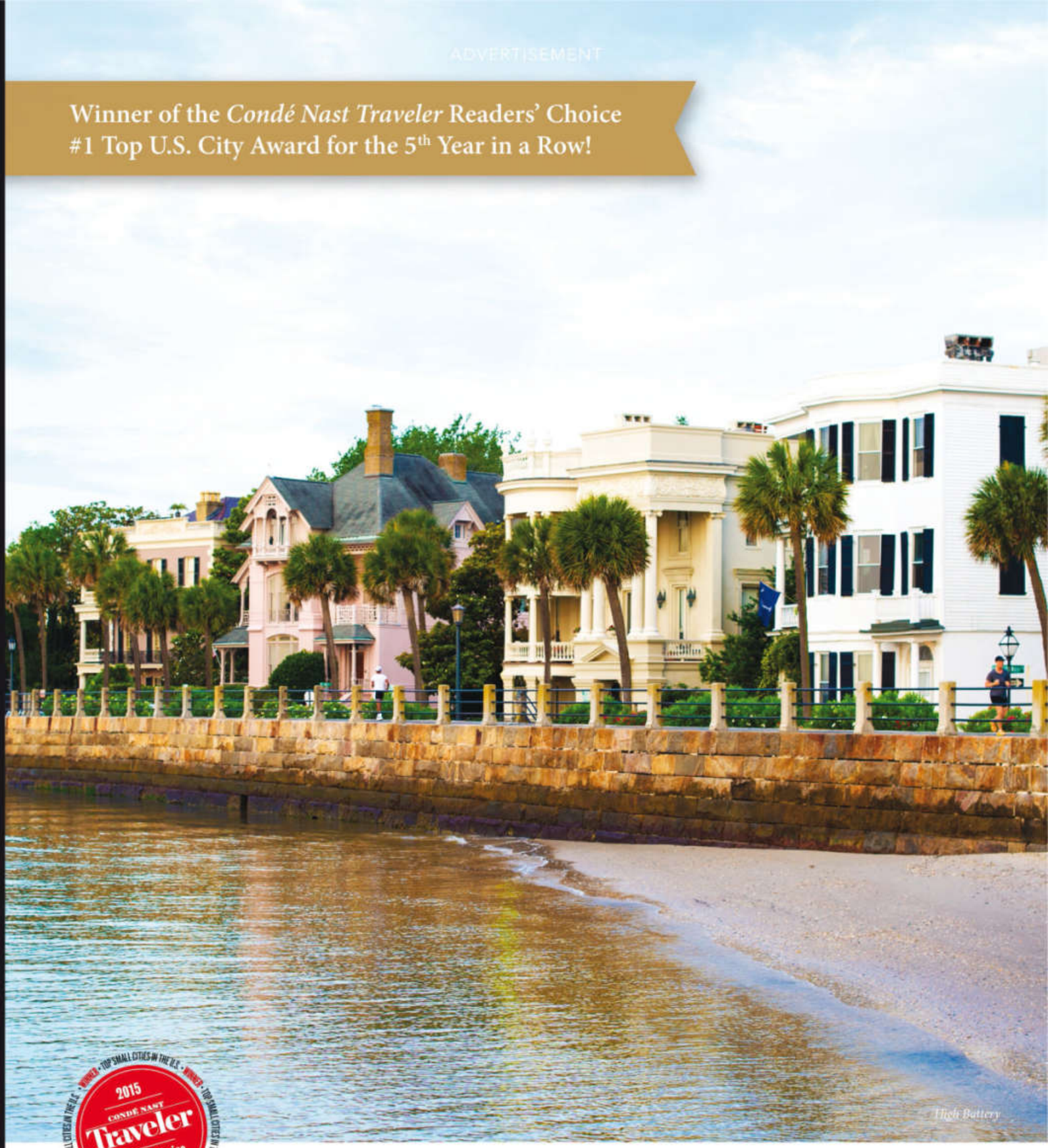
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2015

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

The Best in the World!

For a deeper dive into this year's results, including photos and full reviews, visit us at cntraveler.com/rca.

860 HOTELS

499 RESORTS

60 CITIES

MORE THAN 128,000 of you took part in our 28th annual Readers' Choice Awards survey—the most in its history—submitting millions of ratings and tens of thousands of comments to help us create a list of winning favorites. The breadth of your top-rated experiences was impressive, from elegant castles in the Irish countryside to tented safari camps trailing the Great Migration across the Serengeti. You chose tiny private islands in the tropics, small culture-rich cities in Europe, and intimate river cruises. Most notably, you declared a passion for the authentic, the personalized, the unexpected—finding all three in both newcomers and stalwarts around the world. Turn the page for all of the results.

25 CRUISE LINES

30 ISLANDS

25 AIRLINES

Lettering by MATTHEW TAPIA

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Hotels

UNITED STATES

TOP 10 OVERALL

1 **Waldorf Astoria Chicago** 96.250
2 **The Restoration on King,** Charleston, S.C. 95.470
3 **XV Beacon,** Boston 95.455
4 **The Willcox,** Aiken, S.C. 94.933
5 **The Inn at Harbour Town,** Hilton Head Island, S.C. 94.668
6 **The Surrey,** New York City 94.620
7 **The Alfond Inn,** Winter Park, Fla. 94.537
8 **West Street Hotel,** Bar Harbor, Maine 94.375
9 **The Inn Above Tide,** Sausalito, Calif. 94.178
10 **Hotel Vermont,** Burlington, Vt. 94.168

New York City
TOP 35

1 **The Surrey** 94.620
2 **Trump International Hotel & Tower New York** 92.711
3 **Langham Place, New York, Fifth Avenue** 92.500
4 **The Lowell** 90.611
5 **The Quin** 90.060
6 **Andaz 5th Avenue** 89.842
7 **Mandarin Oriental, New York** 89.646
8 **WestHouse Hotel New York** 89.391
9 **St. Regis New York** 88.914
10 **The Peninsula New York** 88.894
11 **Sofitel New York** 88.485
12 **The Greenwich Hotel** 88.462
13 **Lotte New York Palace** 88.214
14 **Crosby Street Hotel** 87.946
15 **The Maritime Hotel** 87.646
16 **Library Hotel** 87.302
17 **The Pierre (Taj)** 86.869
18 **Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park** 86.655
19 **Trump SoHo New York** 85.781
20 **The Plaza** 85.321
21 **Park Hyatt New York** 84.571
22 **The Carlyle (Rosewood)** 84.493
23 **The Mark** 84.444
24 **Dream Downtown** 84.135
25 **Viceroy New York** 83.941
26 **Four Seasons Hotel New York** 83.602
27 **The James New York** 83.500
28 **The High Line Hotel** 83.056
29 **The Bowery Hotel** 83.028
30 **The Kimberly Hotel** 82.983
31 **Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park** 82.778
32 **The Refinery** 82.176
33 **The NoMad Hotel** 82.037
34 **Row NYC** 82.029
35 **Smyth** 82.010

Across the board, and in New York City in particular, readers were attracted to hotels with a clubby, members-only vibe. The Surrey on the Upper East Side and the recently opened High Line Hotel in West Chelsea deliver exactly that.

9
YEARS
How long Wynn Las Vegas & Encore hotel has been No. 1 in Vegas—it opened on the Strip only a decade ago.

Chicago
TOP 15

1 **Waldorf Astoria Chicago** 96.250
2 **Thompson Chicago** 92.167
3 **The Peninsula Chicago** 91.967
4 **The Langham, Chicago** 91.256
5 **Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago** 89.282
6 **Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago** 89.005
7 **The Godfrey Hotel Chicago** 87.018
8 **Park Hyatt Chicago** 86.810
9 **Kinzie Hotel** 86.310
10 **Sofitel Chicago Water Tower** 86.250
11 **Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park** 85.781
12 **Ritz-Carlton, Chicago** 85.625
13 **Swissôtel Chicago** 84.436
14 **Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel** 83.672
15 **Four Seasons Hotel Chicago** 83.222

Boston
TOP 10

1 **XV Beacon** 95.455
2 **Mandarin Oriental, Boston** 88.542
3 **Four Seasons Hotel Boston** 88.009
4 **Hotel Commonwealth** 85.455
5 **The Verb Hotel** 84.493
6 **Boston Harbor Hotel** 83.732
7 **The Eliot Hotel** 83.237
8 **The Langham, Boston** 83.136
9 **Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common** 82.741
10 **Fairmont Copley Plaza** 82.575

Washington, D.C.
TOP 5

1 **The Jefferson** 92.409
2 **The Hay-Adams** 89.195
3 **Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C.** 86.134
4 **InterContinental The Willard Washington, D.C.** 85.386
5 **Mandarin Oriental, Washington, D.C.** 85.348

Charleston, S.C.
TOP 10

1 **The Restoration on King** 95.470
2 **Wentworth Mansion** 93.878
3 **John Rutledge House Inn** 91.460
4 **French Quarter Inn** 89.360
5 **The Vendue** 87.105
6 **Belmond Charleston Place** 86.578
7 **Market Pavilion Hotel** 86.227
8 **King's Courtyard Inn** 85.786
9 **Planters Inn** 85.319
10 **Zero George** 85.000





New Orleans
TOP 10

1 **Audubon Cottages** 92.130
2 **Hotel Le Marais** 86.312
3 **Soniat House** 85.321
4 **Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans** 84.425
5 **The Roosevelt New Orleans (Waldorf Astoria)** 84.239
6 **Loews New Orleans Hotel** 83.686
7 **Windsor Court Hotel** 83.361
8 **Bourbon Orleans Hotel** 82.504
9 **Le Richelieu in the French Quarter** 82.149
10 **Omni Royal Orleans** 82.107

Las Vegas
TOP 10

1 **Wynn Las Vegas & Encore** 88.853
2 **Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas** 88.688
3 **The Venetian** 86.420
4 **Bellagio** 86.107
5 **The Palazzo** 85.847
6 **Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas** 85.044
7 **The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas** 83.363
8 **Aria** 82.941
9 **Delano Las Vegas** 82.109
10 **Trump International Hotel Las Vegas** 82.091

Los Angeles
TOP 15

1 **Montage Beverly Hills** 93.921
2 **Mr. C Hotel Beverly Hills** 92.460
3 **The Peninsula Beverly Hills** 91.465
4 **Hotel Bel-Air** 89.180
5 **The Garland** 87.898
6 **The Beverly Hills Hotel** 86.828
7 **Viceroy Santa Monica** 86.451
8 **Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles** 84.595
9 **Beverly Wilshire, Beverly Hills, A Four Seasons Hotel** 83.777
10 **Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills** 83.570
11 **Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows** 83.145
12 **Sunset Tower Hotel** 82.722
13 **Shutters on the Beach** 82.690
14 **L'Ermitage Beverly Hills** 82.197
15 **Hotel Casa del Mar** 82.134

San Francisco
TOP 10

1 **The Scarlet Huntington** 84.800
2 **St. Regis San Francisco** 84.638
3 **Inn at the Presidio** 84.295
4 **The Argonaut** 82.139
5 **Taj Campton Place** 82.075
6 **Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco** 82.044
7 **Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco** 82.038
8 **InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco** 82.018
9 **Fairmont San Francisco** 82.009
10 **Palace Hotel (Luxury Collection)** 82.004

METHODOLOGY The Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards survey was made available through a secure website at cntraveler.com/vote. This year's tabulation of results from more than 128,000 respondents submitted during the sweepstakes period of April 1 through June 1, 2015, was done by Equation Research. The questionnaire contains lists of candidates in various categories (Cities, Hotels, etc.). Candidates must receive a required minimum number of responses and a minimum overall rating to be eligible for a Readers' Choice Award. Candidates are judged on a set of criteria relevant to their category, based on a standard five-point scale: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. The mean average of these ratings determines the final score published. For example, the Waldorf Astoria Chicago's score of 96.250 represents the mean average of ratings it received from respondents for all criteria relevant to hotels: rooms, service, food, design, location, activities/facilities, and value.

For more on this year's Readers' Choice Awards, check out cntraveler.com/rca.

PHOTO REFERENCES PROVIDED BY HOTEL PR

Illustrations by **VALERO DOVAL**

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

New England
TOP 25

1 **West Street Hotel,** Bar Harbor, Maine 94.375
2 **Hotel Vermont,** Burlington, Vt. 94.168
3 **Watch Hill Inn,** Westerly, R.I. 94.042
4 **The Chanler at Cliff Walk,** Newport, R.I. 93.122
5 **The Pitcher Inn,** Warren, Vt. 93.119
6 **Twin Farms,** Barnard, Vt. 90.741
7 **Harborside Hotel, Spa & Marina,** Bar Harbor, Maine 90.667
8 **White Elephant Village,** Nantucket 88.507
9 **The Lodge on the Cove,** Kennebunkport, Maine 88.021
10 **Wentworth by the Sea,** New Castle, N.H. 87.906
11 **The Tides Beach Club,** Kennebunkport, Maine 87.672
12 **Black Point Inn,** Scarborough, Maine 85.972
13 **The Wauwinet,** Nantucket 85.309
14 **Hotel Marlowe,** Cambridge, Mass. 85.196
15 **Forty 1° North Hotel Marina Resort,** Newport, R.I. 84.259
16 **Castle Hill Inn & Resort,** Newport, R.I. 84.220
17 **The Grafton Inn,** Vt. 84.211
18 **The Nantucket Hotel & Resort** 83.972
19 **Hartstone Inn,** Camden, Maine 83.796
20 **White Elephant,** Nantucket 83.556
21 **The Inn at Shelburne Farms,** Burlington, Vt. 83.462
22 **Harraseeket Inn,** Freeport, Maine 83.262
23 **Inn at Mill Falls,** Meredith, N.H. 83.229
24 **The White Barn Grace,** Kennebunkport, Maine 83.167
25 **Camden Harbor Inn,** Maine 82.562

New York State & the Mid-Atlantic
TOP 20

1 **The Virginia Hotel,** Cape May, N.J. 91.188
2 **Congress Hall,** Cape May, N.J. 91.059
3 **Fairmont Pittsburgh** 89.167
4 **Hotel Monaco Philadelphia** 88.118
5 **Castle Hotel & Spa,** Tarrytown, N.Y. 88.083
6 **Inn at Perry Cabin by Belmond,** St. Michaels, Md. 88.056
7 **Hyatt at The Bellevue,** Philadelphia 87.158
8 **Sandpiper Beach Club,** Cape May, N.J. 86.996
9 **Sofitel Philadelphia** 86.303
10 **The Latham Hotel, Philadelphia** 86.017
11 **The Mansion on Delaware Avenue,** Buffalo 84.048
12 **Hotel Palomar Philadelphia** 83.974
13 **The Rittenhouse,** Philadelphia 83.810
14 **Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia** 83.625
15 **Bedford Post Inn,** Bedford, N.Y. 83.611
16 **Le Méridien Philadelphia** 83.431
17 **Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore** 82.435
18 **The Inn & Spa at Montchanin Village,** Montchanin, Del. 82.384
19 **W Hoboken,** N.J. 82.016
20 **The Water Club at Borgata,** Atlantic City 82.001



70

FOLD

Increase in the number of readers who took this survey since its launch in 1988.

The Midwest
TOP 15

1 **21c Museum Hotel,** Cincinnati 93.479
2 **Hotel Sorella Country Club Plaza,** Kansas City, Mo. 92.186
3 **Skirvin Hilton,** Oklahoma City, Okla. 87.633
4 **JW Marriott Indianapolis** 87.423
5 **The Iron Horse Hotel,** Milwaukee 87.234
6 **The Saint Paul Hotel,** St. Paul, Minn. 86.849
7 **Radisson Blu Mall of America,** Bloomington, Minn. 85.698
8 **The Raphael Hotel,** Kansas City, Mo. 85.661
9 **White Gull Inn,** Fish Creek, Wis. 85.144
10 **Hotel Iroquois,** Mackinac Island, Mich. 84.583
11 **The Townsend Hotel,** Birmingham, Mich. 84.444
12 **Conrad Indianapolis** 83.514
13 **The Cincinnatian Hotel,** Cincinnati 82.417
14 **Inn on Woodlake,** Kohler, Wis. 82.361
15 **Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis** 82.122

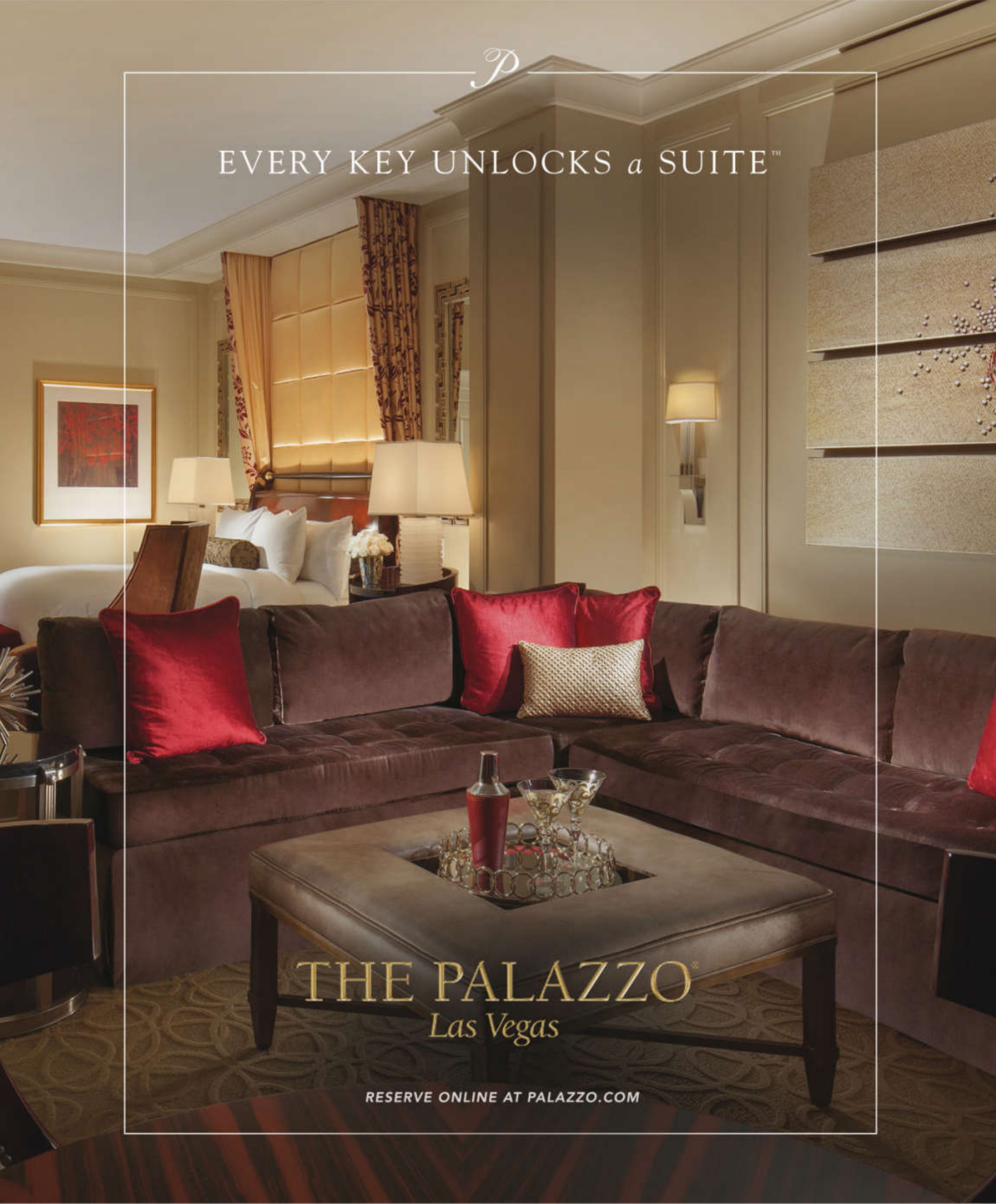
The South
TOP 30

1 **The Willcox,** Aiken, S.C. 94.933
2 **The Inn & Club at Harbour Town,** Hilton Head Island, S.C. 94.668
3 **Old Edwards Inn and Spa,** Highlands, N.C. 93.356
4 **21c Museum Hotel,** Louisville 92.778
5 **River Inn of Harbor Town,** Memphis 91.571
6 **The Inn at Little Washington,** Va. 91.551
7 **The Umstead Hotel and Spa,** Cary, N.C. 90.126
8 **Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte** 89.899
9 **Greyfield Inn,** Cumberland Island, Ga. 89.200
10 **21c Museum Hotel,** Bentonville, Ark. 88.949
11 **Andaz Savannah** 88.656
12 **St. Regis Atlanta** 88.583
13 **The Fearrington House Inn,** Pittsboro, N.C. 87.939
14 **Blackberry Farm,** Walland, Tenn. 87.680
15 **Goodstone Inn & Restaurant,** Middleburg, Va. 87.389
16 **Inn on Biltmore Estate,** Asheville, N.C. 86.894
17 **Mandarin Oriental, Atlanta** 86.530
18 **Omni Nashville Hotel** 86.458
19 **Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead,** Ga. 85.750
20 **Capital Hotel,** Little Rock, Ark. 85.434
21 **The Hermitage Hotel,** Nashville 85.180
22 **Mansion on Forsyth Park,** Savannah 84.935
23 **The Martha Washington Inn & Spa,** Abingdon, Va. 84.352
24 **Grand Bohemian Hotel,** Asheville, N.C. 84.219
25 **Tides Inn,** Irvington, Va. 84.000
26 **Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City,** Arlington, Va. 83.167
27 **W Atlanta–Downtown** 82.625
28 **The Brown Hotel,** Louisville 82.526
29 **Union Station Hotel,** Nashville 82.198
30 **The Peabody,** Memphis 82.163

Florida
TOP 20

1 **The Alfond Inn,** Winter Park 94.537
2 **The Hotel Zamora,** St. Pete Beach 90.196
3 **The Pearl Hotel,** Rosemary Beach 90.057
4 **Vero Beach Hotel & Spa** 89.815
5 **Thompson Miami Beach** 89.352
6 **The Palms Hotel & Spa,** Miami Beach 89.116
7 **Marquesa Hotel,** Key West 88.902
8 **The Epicurean Hotel,** Tampa 88.167
9 **The Chesterfield Palm Beach** 87.934
10 **Mandarin Oriental, Miami** 87.512
11 **The Setai, Miami Beach** 87.458
12 **Epic,** Miami 85.929
13 **Edgewater Beach Hotel,** Naples 85.885
14 **W Fort Lauderdale** 85.404
15 **Sagamore, The Art Hotel,** South Beach 85.392
16 **Viceroy Miami** 84.167
17 **Hilton Cabana Miami Beach** 84.000
18 **Casa Monica Hotel,** St. Augustine 83.875
19 **Waldorf Astoria Orlando** 83.611
20 **JW Marriott Marquis Miami** 83.508

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Texas
TOP 15

1 **Gage Hotel,** Big Bend 93.193
2 **Hotel Valencia Riverwalk,** San Antonio 92.907
3 **Mokara Hotel & Spa,** San Antonio 92.868
4 **JW Marriott Austin** 90.983
5 **Hotel Sorella CityCentre,** Houston 90.721
6 **Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek,** Dallas 89.643
7 **Hotel ZaZa Dallas** 88.224
8 **Hotel Icon,** Houston 88.190
9 **Omni La Mansión del Rio,** San Antonio 86.778
10 **Hyatt Market Street, The Woodlands** 85.313
11 **Rosewood Crescent,** Dallas 84.833
12 **The Joule Hotel,** Dallas 84.706
13 **Ritz-Carlton, Dallas** 84.583
14 **The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa,** Houston 82.646
15 **Hotel ZaZa Houston** 82.039

The Southwest
TOP 12

1 **L'Auberge de Sedona** 91.775
2 **Inn and Spa at Loretto,** Santa Fe 88.785
3 **The Inn of the Five Graces,** Santa Fe 88.278
4 **The Hermosa Inn,** Paradise Valley, Ariz. 87.013
5 **Palacio de Marquesa,** Taos 86.616
6 **Hotel Valley Ho,** Scottsdale 86.239
7 **Arizona Inn,** Tucson 86.202
8 **Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi,** Santa Fe 85.662
9 **La Fonda on the Plaza,** Santa Fe 85.516
10 **Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm,** Albuquerque 83.929
11 **Las Palomas Hotel,** Santa Fe 83.292
12 **Inn on the Alameda,** Santa Fe 82.786

The West
TOP 15

1 **Lumière Telluride** 93.092
2 **The Sebastian,** Vail 91.706
3 **Madeline Hotel & Residences,** Telluride 91.322
4 **The Crawford Hotel,** Denver 91.075
5 **The Grand America Hotel,** Salt Lake City 89.039
6 **The Chateaux Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 87.902
7 **The Oxford Hotel,** Denver 87.278
8 **Hotel Teatro,** Denver 86.488
9 **Desert Pearl Inn,** Springdale, Utah 85.000
10 **St Julien Hotel & Spa,** Boulder 84.399
11 **Hotel Jerome,** Aspen 83.407
12 **New Sheridan Hotel,** Telluride 83.214
13 **Limelight Hotel,** Aspen 82.733
14 **The Wort Hotel,** Jackson, Wyo. 82.540
15 **The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa,** Denver 82.060

Northern California
TOP 30

1 **The Inn Above Tide,** Sausalito 94.178
2 **North Block Hotel,** Yountville 92.778
3 **Brewery Gulch Inn,** Mendocino 92.593
4 **Post Ranch Inn,** Big Sur 92.515
5 **Cavallo Point,** Sausalito 92.014
6 **The Carneros Inn,** Napa 90.821
7 **Bardessono,** Yountville 90.323
8 **Auberge du Soleil,** Rutherford 89.891
9 **Château du Sureau,** Oakhurst 89.583
10 **Vintners Inn,** Santa Rosa 88.967
11 **Hotel Valencia Santana Row,** San Jose 88.278
12 **The Farmhouse Inn,** Russian River Valley 87.644
13 **Bernardus Lodge & Spa,** Carmel Valley 87.640
14 **H2hotel,** Healdsburg 86.908
15 **Andaz Napa** 86.758
16 **Madrona Manor,** Healdsburg 86.666
17 **Hotel Yountville** 85.682
18 **Ventana Inn & Spa,** Big Sur 85.581
19 **L'Auberge Carmel** 84.969
20 **Rosewood Sand Hill,** Menlo Park 84.902
21 **MacArthur Place,** Sonoma 83.888
22 **The Stanford Inn by the Sea,** Mendocino 83.640
23 **Milliken Creek Inn and Spa,** Napa 83.502
24 **Harvest Inn by Charlie Palmer,** St. Helena 83.443
25 **Mendocino Hotel & Garden Suites** 83.333
26 **Hotel Cheval,** Paso Robles 82.569
27 **The Citizen Hotel,** Sacramento 82.264
28 **The Westin San Jose (formerly Sainte Claire),** San Jose 82.167
29 **Hotel Healdsburg** 82.065
30 **Albion River Inn,** Mendocino 82.009

L.A.

The most appealing destination city in the U.S. for Readers' Choice Millennials.

This year's list includes 465 hotels and resorts new to the Readers' Choice Awards. Most astonishingly, a handful of them opened their doors only recently, including The Peninsula Paris and the Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam.



Southern California
TOP 10

1 **Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village** 93.460
2 **San Ysidro Ranch,** Santa Barbara 88.108
3 **The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe,** San Diego 83.970
4 **The Langham Huntington, Pasadena, Los Angeles** 83.624
5 **Andaz San Diego** 82.921
6 **Spanish Garden Inn,** Santa Barbara 82.884
7 **Inn on Mt. Ada,** Catalina Island 82.760
8 **Belmond El Encanto,** Santa Barbara 82.716
9 **Canary,** Santa Barbara 82.589
10 **Grande Colonial La Jolla Hotel** 82.183

The Pacific Northwest
TOP 20

1 **The Oxford Hotel,** Bend, Ore. 92.250
2 **Hotel deLuxe,** Portland 92.008
3 **The Allison Inn & Spa,** Willamette Valley, Ore. 91.689
4 **Hotel Murano,** Tacoma 89.918
5 **Hotel 1000,** Seattle 89.254
6 **Hotel Lucia,** Portland 89.038
7 **Inn at the Market,** Seattle 89.024
8 **Tu Tu' Tun Lodge,** Gold Beach, Ore. 88.906
9 **Stephanie Inn,** Cannon Beach, Ore. 88.108
10 **Four Seasons Hotel Seattle** 86.991
11 **Sentinel Hotel,** Portland 86.823
12 **Salish Lodge & Spa,** Snoqualmie, Wash. 86.734
13 **The Nines (Luxury Collection),** Portland 86.539
14 **Hotel Monaco Seattle** 85.586
15 **Hotel Vintage,** Seattle 84.911
16 **Hotel Monaco Portland** 84.836
17 **Alexis Hotel,** Seattle 84.779
18 **Fairmont Olympic Hotel,** Seattle 84.614
19 **The Historic Davenport Hotel,** Spokane 84.516
20 **The Heathman Hotel,** Portland 82.369

Hawaii
TOP 5

1 **Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach Walk,** Honolulu 91.667
2 **Hotel Wailea Maui** 91.250
3 **Halekulani,** Honolulu 89.511
4 **The Modern Honolulu** 83.931
5 **The Royal Hawaiian (Luxury Collection),** Honolulu 82.904

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Old San Juan
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The third most popular destination in the world for U.S. tourists after Mexico and Canada is the United Kingdom, generating an eclectic list of 40 properties—from country-house hotels to urban bolt-holes.

EUROPE

TOP 10 OVERALL

1 **Portrait Roma,** Rome 98.009
2 **Summer Lodge Country House Hotel,** Dorset, England 96.627
3 **Palazzo Avino,** Ravello, Italy 96.167
4 **Hotel d'Angleterre,** Geneva 96.162
5 **The Peninsula Paris** 94.940
6 **Le Bristol Paris** 94.684
7 **Baur au Lac,** Zurich 94.676
8 **J.K. Place Roma,** Rome 94.444
9 **Castello di Casole,** Tuscany 94.415
10 **Portrait Firenze,** Florence 94.271

London
TOP 30

1 **The Soho Hotel** 93.287
2 **Egerton House Hotel** 91.928
3 **The Goring** 91.674
4 **Charlotte Street Hotel** 91.172
5 **Corinthia Hotel London** 89.800
6 **The Milestone Hotel** 89.540
7 **Hotel 41** 89.229
8 **Rosewood London** 88.841
9 **Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park** 87.899
10 **Brown's Hotel** 87.712
11 **The Ritz London** 87.700
12 **The Savoy** 87.251
13 **The Langham, London** 87.000
14 **Shangri-La Hotel, At The Shard, London** 86.852
15 **The London Edition** 86.458
16 **The Dorchester** 85.372
17 **Claridge's** 85.278
18 **Metropolitan by COMO** 85.275
19 **The Stafford** 84.713
20 **The Landmark London** 83.704
21 **The Connaught** 83.395
22 **The Berkeley** 83.188
23 **St. Pancras Renaissance London Hotel** 83.056
24 **Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane** 82.816
25 **The Ampersand Hotel** 82.708
26 **London Marriott Hotel County Hall** 82.556
27 **Hyatt Regency London–The Churchill** 82.193
28 **Four Seasons Hotel London at Canary Wharf** 82.143
29 **St Martins Lane London** 82.123
30 **Blakes London** 82.073

United Kingdom
(not including London)
TOP 10

1 **Summer Lodge Country House Hotel,** Dorset 96.627
2 **Gravetye Manor,** Sussex 94.000
3 **Cliveden House,** Berkshire 92.708
4 **Inverlochy Castle Hotel,** Fort William, Scotland 91.894
5 **Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons,** Oxford 89.717
6 **The Chester Grosvenor,** Cheshire 85.889
7 **The St. David's Hotel & Spa,** Cardiff, Wales 84.306
8 **The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa,** Bath 82.956
9 **Old Bank Hotel,** Oxford 82.210
10 **Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh–The Caledonian** 82.115

Ireland
TOP 12

1 **Lough Eske Castle,** Co. Donegal 90.000
2 **The River Lee Hotel,** Cork 88.611
3 **Ballymaloe House,** Co. Cork 87.902
4 **The Merrion,** Dublin 86.856
5 **The Fitzwilliam Dublin Hotel** 86.293
6 **Ballynahinch Castle Hotel,** Co. Galway 85.547
7 **Hayfield Manor Hotel,** Cork 85.327
8 **The Cliff House Hotel,** Co. Waterford 85.038
9 **The Malton,** Co. Kerry 83.810
10 **The Killarney Park Hotel,** Co. Kerry 83.786
11 **Four Seasons Hotel Dublin** 83.750
12 **Park Hotel Kenmare,** Co. Kerry 82.808

13
DAYS

Paid national holidays guaranteed to Austrians every year—in the U.S. there are none.

For more on this year's Readers' Choice Awards, check out cntraveler.com/rca.

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

We've never seen such adoration for hotels in Italy: 77 in total made the list—including 5 from the Lungarno Collection, designed by Florentine architect Michele Bönan and overseen by the son of legendary shoemaker Salvatore Ferragamo.



Paris
TOP 20

1 **The Peninsula Paris** 94.940
2 **Le Bristol Paris** 94.684
3 **Le Royal Monceau–Raffles Paris** 89.977
4 **Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris** 88.836
5 **Hôtel Plaza Athénée** 88.833
6 **Hôtel d'Aubusson** 88.825
7 **Le Meurice** 88.384
8 **Shangri-La Hotel, Paris** 87.790
9 **Prince de Galles (Luxury Collection)** 87.701
10 **Le Pavillon de la Reine** 87.456
11 **Park Hyatt Paris–Vendôme** 86.915
12 **Mandarin Oriental, Paris** 86.422
13 **L'Hotel** 86.264
14 **Saint James Paris** 86.232
15 **Hotel Scribe Paris** 85.490
16 **Hôtel Raphael** 84.667
17 **Grand Hôtel du Palais Royal** 84.435
18 **Amarante Champs-Élysées** 84.167
19 **Trianon Palace Versailles (Waldorf Astoria)** 83.922
20 **Hotel Lancaster** 83.077

France & Monaco
(not including Paris)
TOP 20

1 **Château de la Chèvre d'Or,** Èze 92.240
2 **Hôtel Crillon le Brave,** Provence 90.774
3 **Villa Lara,** Bayeux, Normandy 90.611
4 **Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc,** Cap d'Antibes 90.000
5 **Hôtel de Paris,** Monte Carlo 89.551
6 **Château Eza,** Èze 89.427
7 **Hôtel Hermitage,** Monte Carlo 88.971
8 **Domaine Les Crayères,** Reims 88.462
9 **Domaine des Hauts de Loire,** Onzain 88.382
10 **La Villa Gallici,** Aix-en-Provence 87.206
11 **Hôtel du Palais,** Biarritz 85.685
12 **Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat, A Four Seasons Hotel** 84.321
13 **Fairmont Monte Carlo** 83.874
14 **Boscolo Exedra Nice** 83.571
15 **La Mirande,** Avignon 82.738
16 **Hyatt Regency Nice Palais de la Méditerranée** 82.695
17 **Domaine de la Baume,** Tourtour 82.616
18 **Hôtel Le Cep,** Beaune 82.577
19 **Hôtel de la Cité,** Carcassonne 82.480
20 **Grand Hôtel de Bordeaux & Spa** 82.351

9 OUT OF 10 CITIES

Of the top ten cities in the world that first-time Readers' Choice visitors would return to, nine are in Italy.

Rome
TOP 20

1 **Portrait Roma** 98.009
2 **J.K. Place Roma** 94.444
3 **The First Luxury Art Hotel Roma** 88.750
4 **Hotel Raphaël** 88.512
5 **Hassler Roma** 87.141
6 **Grand Hotel Palace (formerly Boscolo)** 85.177
7 **Hotel Eden Rome** 84.967
8 **Baglioni Hotel Regina** 84.746
9 **Boscolo Exedra Roma** 84.639
10 **Aldrovandi Villa Borghese** 84.444
11 **St. Regis Rome** 84.383
12 **Rome Cavalieri (Waldorf Astoria)** 84.300
13 **Hotel de Russie** 84.095
14 **Grand Hotel Plaza** 83.771
15 **Sofitel Rome Villa Borghese** 82.714
16 **InterContinental De La Ville Roma** 82.536
17 **Parco dei Principe Grand Hotel & Spa** 82.199
18 **Hotel Bernini Bristol** 82.101
19 **Hotel Majestic Roma** 82.016
20 **The Inn at the Spanish Steps** 82.000

Florence
TOP 15

1 **Portrait Firenze** 94.271
2 **Il Salviatino,** Fiesole 93.468
3 **Belmond Villa San Michele,** Fiesole 92.130
4 **Continentale** 90.288
5 **J.K. Place Firenze** 88.587
6 **Westin Excelsior Florence** 87.809
7 **Four Seasons Hotel Firenze** 86.792
8 **St. Regis Florence** 86.521
9 **Hotel Lungarno** 86.480
10 **Grand Hotel Villa Cora** 85.144
11 **Plaza Hotel Lucchesi** 83.583
12 **Gallery Hotel Art** 82.440
13 **Hotel Helvetia & Bristol** 82.298
14 **Hotel L'Orologio Florence** 82.177
15 **Hotel Savoy** 82.010

Venice
TOP 12

1 **Belmond Hotel Cipriani** 91.566
2 **St. Regis Venice San Clemente Palace** 90.833
3 **The Gritti Palace (Luxury Collection)** 88.805
4 **Baglioni Hotel Luna** 88.415
5 **Hotel Metropole** 85.403
6 **Westin Europa & Regina** 85.173
7 **Bauers L'Hotel** 84.968
8 **Bauers Il Palazzo** 84.841
9 **Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal** 84.405
10 **Hotel Danieli (Luxury Collection)** 83.829
11 **Hotel Londra Palace** 83.712
12 **Ca'Sagredo Hotel** 83.258

Italy
(not including Rome, Florence, or Venice)
TOP 30

1 **Palazzo Avino,** Ravello 96.167
2 **Castello di Casole,** Tuscany 94.415
3 **Il San Pietro di Positano** 93.083
4 **J.K. Place Capri** 92.982
5 **San Domenico Palace Hotel,** Taormina, Sicily 92.917
6 **Belmond Hotel Caruso,** Ravello 92.824
7 **Hotel Il Pellicano,** Tuscany 91.923
8 **Le Sirenuse,** Positano 91.023
9 **Hotel Santa Caterina,** Amalfi 89.470
10 **Belmond Hotel Splendido and Belmond Splendido Mare,** Portofino 89.275
11 **Il Falconiere,** Tuscany 89.167
12 **Grand Hotel Tremezzo,** Lake Como 88.882
13 **Castello Banfi–Il Borgo,** Tuscany 88.782
14 **La Scalinatella,** Capri 88.278
15 **Park Hyatt Milan** 87.303
16 **Grand Hotel Quisisana,** Capri 87.286
17 **Grand Hotel des Îles Borromées,** Lake Maggiore 86.914
18 **Caesar Augustus,** Capri 86.865
19 **Capri Palace Hotel & Spa** 86.623
20 **Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria,** Sorrento 86.414
21 **Palazzo Victoria,** Verona 85.208
22 **Hotel Principe di Savoia,** Milan 85.020
23 **Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo,** Taormina, Sicily 84.657
24 **Hotel Buca di Bacco,** Positano 83.750
25 **Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni,** Lake Como 83.383
26 **Grand Hotel Vesuvio,** Naples 83.304
27 **Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa,** Amalfi 83.073
28 **Grand Hotel Miramare,** Liguria 82.891
29 **Four Seasons Hotel Milano** 82.287
30 **Bulgari Hotel Milan** 82.018

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Greece & Turkey
TOP 12

1 **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus** 90.858
2 **Çırağan Palace Kempinski,** Istanbul 89.904
3 **Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul** 88.167
4 **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet** 87.926
5 **InterContinental Istanbul** 86.250
6 **Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah,** Istanbul 85.602
7 **Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus** 85.185
8 **Hotel Grande Bretagne (Luxury Collection),** Athens 85.028
9 **Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul** 84.722
10 **New Hotel,** Athens 83.636
11 **King George (Luxury Collection),** Athens 83.333
12 **Park Hyatt Istanbul–Maçka Palas** 82.798

Spain & Portugal
TOP 20

1 **The Yeatman Hotel,** Porto, Portugal 93.229
2 **Majestic Hotel & Spa,** Barcelona 89.889
3 **Hotel Maria Cristina (Luxury Collection),** San Sebastián 88.514
4 **Hotel Arts,** Barcelona 88.443
5 **Gran Meliá Fénix,** Madrid 87.375
6 **Hotel Ritz, Madrid** 87.262
7 **Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon** 86.557
8 **InterContinental Porto–Palacio das Cardosas,** Portugal 86.250
9 **Parador de Granada,** Spain 85.806
10 **Hotel Alfonso XIII (Luxury Collection),** Seville 85.313
11 **Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona** 85.014
12 **Tivoli Lisboa** 84.914
13 **Hotel 1898,** Barcelona 83.854
14 **W Barcelona** 83.654
15 **Hotel Claris Grand Luxe Barcelona** 83.594
16 **Gallery Barcelona Hotel** 83.578
17 **Gran Meliá Colón,** Seville 83.199
18 **Westin Palace,** Madrid 82.955
19 **Villa Magna,** Madrid 82.912
20 **Parador de Santiago de Compostela,** Spain 82.304

Switzerland
TOP 12

1 **Hotel d'Angleterre,** Geneva 96.162
2 **Baur au Lac,** Zurich 94.676
3 **Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa,** Interlaken 92.115
4 **Fairmont Le Montreux Palace** 90.211
5 **Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues Geneva** 90.000
6 **Park Hyatt Zurich** 88.988
7 **Beau-Rivage Palace,** Lausanne 88.294
8 **Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern** 88.263
9 **Palace Luzern** 88.202
10 **Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois,** Basel 86.000
11 **Grand Hôtel Suisse Majestic,** Montreux 84.510
12 **Grand Hotel National Luzern** 83.952

15th CENTURY

The Parador de Santiago de Compostela in Spain hosted its first guests—traveling pilgrims—in 1499.

Central Europe
TOP 25

1 **Mandarin Oriental, Prague** 93.442
2 **Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest** 91.296
3 **Ritz-Carlton, Vienna** 90.877
4 **Four Seasons Hotel Prague** 89.922
5 **Sofitel Budapest Chain Bridge** 88.961
6 **Corinthia Hotel Budapest** 88.854
7 **Le Méridien Budapest** 88.635
8 **Hotel Sacher Vienna** 87.576
9 **Alchymist Grand Hotel & Spa,** Prague 87.440
10 **Kempinski Hotel Corvinus,** Budapest 87.089
11 **Hotel Sacher Salzburg** 85.850
12 **Esplanade Zagreb Hotel,** Croatia 85.119
13 **Hotel Bristol (Luxury Collection),** Vienna 84.896
14 **Hotel Goldener Hirsch (Luxury Collection),** Salzburg 84.679
15 **Budapest Marriott Hotel** 84.593
16 **Hotel Arlberg,** Lech, Austria 83.681
17 **Radisson Blu Alcron Hotel, Prague** 83.488
18 **Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom** 83.482
19 **InterContinental Wien,** Vienna 83.091
20 **JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel,** Romania 82.656
21 **Hotel Imperial (Luxury Collection),** Vienna 82.473
22 **Boscolo Budapest** 82.321
23 **InterContinental Prague** 82.304
24 **Hotel Vestibul Palace,** Split, Croatia 82.244
25 **Hilton Prague Old Town** 82.068



Amsterdam
TOP 10

1 **Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht** 93.167
2 **Conservatorium Hotel** 92.544
3 **Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam** 89.365
4 **De L'Europe** 88.015
5 **Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam** 86.094
6 **Hotel Estheréa** 85.525
7 **Hotel Pulitzer** 83.583
8 **Ambassade Hotel** 83.486
9 **Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam** 82.370
10 **InterContinental Amstel Amsterdam** 82.101

Northern Europe
(not including Amsterdam)
TOP 30

1 **Hotel de Rome,** Berlin 93.833
2 **Grand Hotel Casselbergh,** Bruges 92.396
3 **The Charles Hotel,** Munich 90.685
4 **Villa Kennedy,** Frankfurt 90.556
5 **Hotel Dukes' Palace,** Bruges 89.538
6 **Das Stue,** Berlin 89.286
7 **Hotel Astoria,** St. Petersburg 88.542
8 **Brenners Park–Hotel & Spa,** Baden-Baden, Germany 88.395
9 **Hotel Kämp (Luxury Collection),** Helsinki 88.194
10 **Hotel Adlon Kempinski Berlin** 87.406
11 **Ritz-Carlton, Berlin** 87.158
12 **Hotel Bristol (Luxury Collection),** Warsaw 87.061
13 **Hotel Borg,** Reykjavík 86.616
14 **Hotel Amigo,** Brussels 86.411
15 **Grand Hotel Amrâth Kurhaus The Hague (formerly Steigenberger),** The Netherlands 86.228
16 **Radisson Royal Hotel,** Moscow 86.198
17 **Hotel d'Angleterre,** Copenhagen 85.875
18 **Grand Hôtel,** Stockholm 85.305
19 **Hotel Torbräu,** Munich 85.250
20 **Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski,** Munich 85.104
21 **Le Méridien Grand Hotel Nuremberg,** Germany 85.010
22 **The Thief,** Oslo 85.000
23 **Regent Berlin** 84.891
24 **Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof,** Frankfurt 84.708
25 **Hotel München Palace,** Munich 84.137
26 **Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten,** Hamburg 83.333
27 **Hótel Búðir,** Snaefellsnes, Iceland 83.165
28 **Ghent Marriott Hotel,** Belgium 82.552
29 **Mandarin Oriental, Munich** 82.540
30 **Ritz-Carlton, Moscow** 82.361

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REST OF THE WORLD

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



Vancouver
TOP 10

1 **Loden Hotel** 96.019
2 **Opus Hotel** 90.071
3 **Fairmont Pacific Rim** 88.687
4 **Shangri-La Hotel, Vancouver** 87.708
5 **Rosewood Hotel Georgia** 87.214
6 **L'Hermitage Hotel** 86.587
7 **Fairmont Waterfront** 84.265
8 **Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver** 82.722
9 **Pan Pacific Vancouver** 82.389
10 **Wedgewood Hotel & Spa** 82.141

Canada
(not including Vancouver)
TOP 20

1 **Trump International Hotel & Tower Toronto** 92.052
2 **Auberge Saint-Antoine,** Quebec City 91.604
3 **The Hazelton Hotel,** Toronto 90.625
4 **The Magnolia Hotel & Spa,** Victoria, B.C. 89.616
5 **Manoir Hovey,** North Hatley, Quebec 89.275
6 **Ritz-Carlton Montréal** 86.840
7 **Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa,** Cambridge, Ontario 86.111
8 **Ritz-Carlton, Toronto** 86.027
9 **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac,** Quebec City 84.797
10 **Hastings House Country House Hotel,** Salt Spring Island, B.C. 84.583
11 **Hôtel Nelligan,** Montreal 83.558
12 **Auberge du Vieux-Port,** Montreal 83.079
13 **Fairmont Empress,** Victoria, B.C. 82.934
14 **Le Place d'Armes Hôtel & Suites,** Montreal 82.680
15 **Le Germain Hotel Calgary,** Alberta 82.552
16 **Hotel Le St-James,** Montreal 82.253
17 **Sooke Harbour House,** Vancouver Island, B.C. 82.143
18 **Four Seasons Hotel Toronto** 82.099
19 **Windsor Arms Hotel,** Toronto 82.079
20 **Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto** 82.072

The Caribbean & Central America
TOP 10

1 **Casa Palopó,** Lake Atitlán, Guatemala 90.774
2 **Hotel Casa Santo Domingo,** Antigua, Guatemala 88.925
3 **Waldorf Astoria Panama,** Panama City, Panama 88.542
4 **Condado Vanderbilt Hotel,** San Juan, P.R. 87.890
5 **Peace Lodge,** La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Costa Rica 85.294
6 **Hotel El Convento,** San Juan, P.R. 84.516
7 **El Convento Boutique Hotel,** Antigua, Guatemala 84.115
8 **Porta Hotel Antigua,** Guatemala 82.813
9 **American Trade Hotel,** Panama City, Panama 82.396
10 **Finca Rosa Blanca Coffee Plantation Resort,** Santa Bárbara, Costa Rica 82.044

Mexico
TOP 10

1 **Las Alcobas (Luxury Collection),** Mexico City 94.481
2 **St. Regis Mexico City** 92.468
3 **Hotel Matilda,** San Miguel de Allende 92.188
4 **Belmond Casa de Sierra Nevada,** San Miguel de Allende 88.345
5 **Rosewood San Miguel de Allende** 87.719
6 **Hotel Casa Natalia,** San José del Cabo 86.905
7 **Hacienda San Angel,** Puerto Vallarta 86.667
8 **Adobe Guadalupe Vineyards & Inn,** Ensenada 84.167
9 **Four Seasons Hotel Mexico, D.F.,** Mexico City 83.854
10 **Quinta Real Oaxaca** 82.410

11,200

FEET

Altitude of Cusco, Peru, a perennial favorite stop en route to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley.

South America
TOP 25

1 **Hotel Unique,** São Paulo 91.667
2 **Palacio Duhau–Park Hyatt,** Buenos Aires 91.616
3 **Inkaterra La Casona,** Cusco, Peru 91.439
4 **Alvear Palace Hotel,** Buenos Aires 91.409
5 **Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Cartagena,** Colombia 90.304
6 **Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel,** Peru 89.596
7 **Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness,** Peru 88.561
8 **Park Tower (Luxury Collection),** Buenos Aires 87.431
9 **Fasano São Paulo** 87.167
10 **JW Marriott El Convento Cusco,** Peru 86.984
11 **Belmond Hotel Monasterio,** Cusco, Peru 86.808
12 **Belmond Hotel das Cataratas,** Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil 86.577
13 **Ritz-Carlton, Santiago** 85.962
14 **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel,** Peru 85.951
15 **Casa San Agustin,** Cartagena, Colombia 85.417
16 **Four Seasons Hotel Buenos Aires** 84.692
17 **Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel,** Peru 84.551
18 **Sofitel Buenos Aires** 84.375
19 **Belmond Miraflores Park,** Lima 84.228
20 **Palacio del Inka (Luxury Collection),** Cusco, Peru 83.686
21 **Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado,** Sacred Valley, Peru 83.452
22 **B.O.G. Hotel,** Bogotá 83.333
23 **Fasano Rio de Janeiro** 83.167
24 **JW Marriott Hotel Lima** 82.315
25 **Belmond Copacabana Palace,** Rio de Janeiro 82.085

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



China
TOP 40

1 **The Peninsula Shanghai** 93.281
2 **Jing An Shangri-La Hotel, West Shanghai** 92.857
3 **Ritz-Carlton, Beijing** 92.814
4 **Fairmont Peace Hotel,** Shanghai 92.715
5 **PuLi Hotel and Spa,** Shanghai 92.708
6 **Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong** 92.444
7 **Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street** 92.217
8 **The Peninsula Hong Kong** 91.893
9 **Kerry Hotel,** Beijing 91.782
10 **Regent Beijing** 90.914
11 **The Upper House,** Hong Kong 90.625
12 **Westin Bund Center,** Shanghai 90.147
13 **Kowloon Shangri-La, Hong Kong** 90.007
14 **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai** 89.990
15 **Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai** 89.783
16 **Raffles Beijing** 89.697
17 **Pudong Shangri-La, East Shanghai** 89.657
18 **Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong** 89.338
19 **Portman Ritz-Carlton, Shanghai** 89.054
20 **Westin Beijing Chaoyang** 88.988
21 **Westin Beijing Financial Street** 88.924
22 **Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong** 88.837
23 **Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund** 88.333
24 **Fairmont Beijing Hotel** 87.895
25 **St. Regis Beijing** 87.862
26 **Park Hyatt Beijing** 87.103
27 **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai at Pudong** 86.505
28 **Grand Hyatt Shanghai** 86.273
29 **Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong** 85.769
30 **InterContinental Hong Kong** 85.402
31 **Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong** 85.286
32 **Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing** 84.702
33 **Conrad Hong Kong** 84.354
34 **Park Hyatt Shanghai** 84.125
35 **Four Seasons Hotel Beijing** 84.018
36 **Conrad Beijing** 83.929
37 **Shangri-La Hotel, Xi'an** 83.153
38 **JW Marriott Hotel Beijing** 83.017
39 **Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou** 82.500
40 **JW Marriott Shanghai at Tomorrow Square** 82.303

3
CITIES

Fierce competition between hotels in three of China's largest cities—Beijing, Hong Kong, and Shanghai—left little room for properties elsewhere.

In all, there are 63 Four Seasons hotels and resorts on this year's list, the most of any brand. Next in line is Ritz-Carlton, with 46 properties.

India & the Himalayas
TOP 20

1 **Oberoi Udaivilas,** Udaipur, India 94.424
2 **Taj Lake Palace,** Udaipur, India 91.432
3 **The Oberoi, Mumbai,** India 91.136
4 **Oberoi Rajvilas,** Jaipur, India 89.972
5 **The Taj Mahal Palace,** Mumbai, India 89.456
6 **The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata,** India 88.056
7 **Dwarika's Hotel,** Kathmandu, Nepal 87.917
8 **Taj Tashi,** Thimphu, Bhutan 87.010
9 **Oberoi Amarvilas,** Agra, India 85.884
10 **The Leela Palace New Delhi,** India 85.192
11 **Jai Mahal Palace (Taj),** Jaipur, India 84.226
12 **Rambagh Palace (Taj),** Jaipur, India 84.191
13 **The Oberoi, Bangalore,** India 83.910
14 **Taj Mahal Hotel,** New Delhi, India 83.827
15 **The Oberoi, New Delhi,** India 83.333
16 **Taj West End,** Bangalore, India 83.284
17 **ITC Mughal (Luxury Collection),** Agra, India 83.159
18 **Umaid Bhawan Palace (Taj),** Jodhpur, India 82.702
19 **JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu,** India 82.079
20 **The Imperial,** New Delhi, India 82.038

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YUCATAN PENINSULA

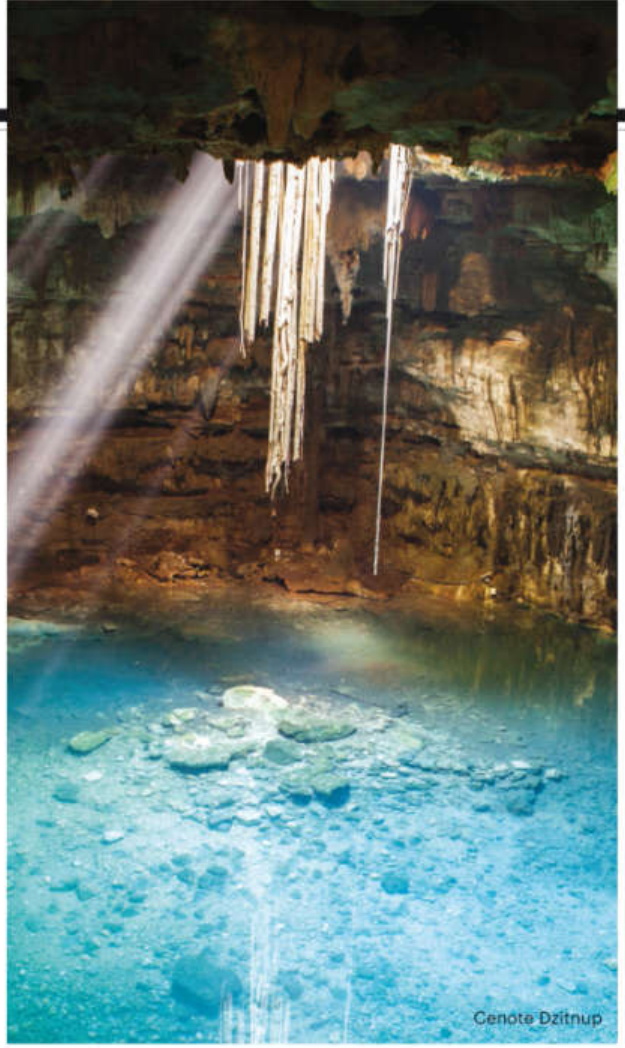
DIVINE WONDERS



MEXICO'S MYSTICAL SOUTHEAST CORNER SPRAWLS OVER THREE states and boasts some of the most mesmerizing beaches, crystalline waters, and all of the awe-inspiring ruins you could ever hope to experience. From scuba diving along coral reefs to ogling jungle-entangled pyramids and kicking back poolside before your hot-stone massage—the Yucatan Peninsula has it all.

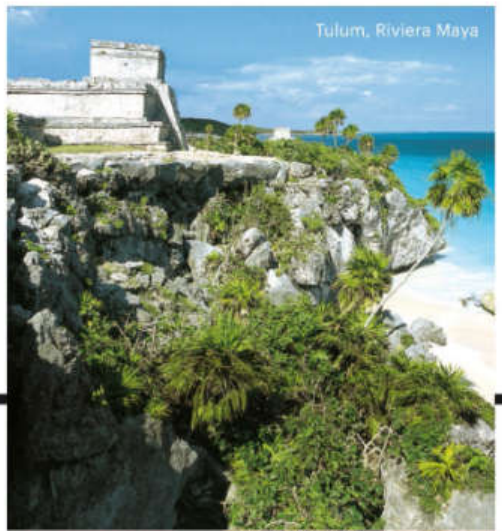
Uxmal, Yucatan

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Convento Izamal, Yucatan

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Tulum, Riviera Maya

➤ Your wondrous journey begins in Cancun. The epicenter of all that is well appointed, here you'll find five-star comforts, sparkling sapphire waters, impeccable restaurants, and a thriving nightlife. A stone's throw from the resort scene, however, the streets are sprinkled with cantina-style eateries and colorful open-air markets begging to be explored.

Travel south from Cancun and along what is arguably one of the most breathtaking coastlines in Mexico. The magical Riviera Maya is an 80-mile stretch of postcard-perfect beaches, cool-water cenotes (natural limestone pools), and sleepy fishing villages. If it's urban chic you seek, you'll find it in Playa del Carmen—but Playa has nothing on the spectacular cliff ruins of Tulum. No worries, though. Riviera Maya is so seamlessly interconnected, you can snorkel in the blue-green waters of Puerto Morelos, swing by Playa del Carmen for a little ceviche and shopping, and enjoy a candlelit dinner in Tulum, all in the same day. Or hop the quick ferry over to laid-back Cozumel. The tranquil island is home to the world's second-largest coral reef and a haven for beach lovers and divers alike.

Next, head inland to the intriguing state of Yucatan. After a quick dip in the striking Cenote Dzitnup, it's time to hit the ruins. The peninsula is dotted with ancient Maya sites, but Yucatan possesses the bulk of the best restored and most famous, including the sacred Chichen Itza. The soaring temples and carved columns are undisputed masterpieces of Mesoamerican architecture. The nearby Uxmal ruins are equally impressive—and unforgettable. Once you've soaked up the state's old-world wonders, venture into the provincial "Yellow City" of Izamal, then immerse yourself in the cultural capital of the entire peninsula, Merida. The city's rich history, picturesque plazas, and fascinating museums provide the perfect finale to your incredible journey.

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Japan & North Asia
TOP 20

1 **Hotel Okura Tokyo** 91.520
2 **Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo** 90.347
3 **JW Marriott Hotel Seoul** 89.107
4 **Imperial Hotel,** Tokyo 88.133
5 **W Taipei** 88.117
6 **Gôra Kadan,** Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, Japan 88.021
7 **Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto** 87.609
8 **Park Hyatt Tokyo** 87.558
9 **The Peninsula Tokyo** 87.323
10 **Mandarin Oriental, Taipei** 86.161
11 **Imperial Hotel,** Osaka 85.298
12 **Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo** 85.294
13 **Ritz-Carlton, Tokyo** 84.744
14 **Park Hyatt Seoul** 84.444
15 **The Shilla Seoul** 83.287
16 **Palace Hotel Tokyo** 82.540
17 **Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Marunouchi** 82.321
18 **Grand Hyatt Tokyo** 82.255
19 **InterContinental ANA The Strings Tokyo** 82.222
20 **Hotel Okura Kyoto** 82.098

Singapore
TOP 10

1 **Regent Singapore, A Four Seasons Hotel** 88.333
2 **Raffles Hotel Singapore** 86.950
3 **St. Regis Singapore** 86.275
4 **Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore** 86.257
5 **The Fullerton Bay Hotel** 86.034
6 **Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore** 84.763
7 **Fairmont Singapore** 83.443
8 **Four Seasons Hotel Singapore** 82.360
9 **Marina Bay Sands** 82.238
10 **The Fullerton Hotel** 82.179

Bangkok
TOP 10

1 **The Peninsula Bangkok** 90.472
2 **Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok** 90.266
3 **W Bangkok** 88.426
4 **InterContinental Bangkok** 87.967
5 **The Sukhothai Bangkok** 87.202
6 **Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok** 87.080
7 **Sofitel So Bangkok** 85.938
8 **Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers** 85.449
9 **St. Regis Bangkok** 85.417
10 **Oriental Residence Bangkok** 84.524

Southeast Asia
(not including Singapore or Bangkok)
TOP 15

1 **Shinta Mani Club,** Siem Reap, Cambodia 97.059
2 **Amansara,** Siem Reap, Cambodia 90.132
3 **Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi,** Vietnam 89.784
4 **Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor,** Siem Reap, Cambodia 88.542
5 **Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra,** Cambodia 88.522
6 **Belmond Governor's Residence,** Rangoon, Burma 88.514
7 **The Peninsula Manila,** Philippines 87.574
8 **Sofitel Saigon Plaza,** Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 87.374
9 **Hotel Mulia Senayan,** Jakarta, Indonesia 83.523
10 **Park Hyatt Saigon,** Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 83.269
11 **Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor,** Siem Reap, Cambodia 83.209
12 **Mandarin Oriental, Kuala Lumpur,** Malaysia 83.083
13 **La Résidence Hotel & Spa,** Hue, Vietnam 82.726
14 **Park Hyatt Siem Reap,** Cambodia 82.466
15 **Raffles Hotel Le Royal,** Phnom Penh, Cambodia 82.101

Africa
TOP 25

1 **Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel,** Cape Town 93.235
2 **The Oyster Box,** Durban, South Africa 92.333
3 **Ellerman House,** Cape Town 92.244
4 **The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa,** Cape Town 91.575
5 **Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at The First Residence** 91.204
6 **Birkenhead House Hotel,** Hermanus, South Africa 90.750
7 **Gibb's Farm,** Ngorongoro, Tanzania 89.539
8 **Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa,** Johannesburg 89.286
9 **Babylonstoren,** Stellenbosch, South Africa 88.750
10 **Giraffe Manor,** Nairobi 88.548
11 **La Residence,** Franschhoek, South Africa 88.428
12 **One&Only Cape Town** 87.792
13 **Cape Grace,** Cape Town 87.286
14 **Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff, Johannesburg** 87.262
15 **The Table Bay,** Cape Town 86.347
16 **The Royal Livingstone,** Victoria Falls, Zambia 86.302
17 **La Mamounia,** Marrakech, Morocco 85.990
18 **Spier Hotel,** Stellenbosch, South Africa 85.833
19 **Stanley & Livingstone Safari Lodge,** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe 84.722
20 **Taj Cape Town** 84.583
21 **Zanzibar Serena Inn,** Tanzania 84.461
22 **Le Quartier Français,** Franschhoek, South Africa 83.574
23 **54 on Bath,** Johannesburg 83.521
24 **Ngorongoro Farm House,** Tanzania 83.235
25 **Arusha Coffee Lodge,** Tanzania 82.448

8

MINUTES

Time it takes to drive between your two favorite hotels at Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe border crossings not included).

Fans of mid-century modern architecture, take note: The iconic main wing of Tokyo's Hotel Okura is being replaced by a modern tower in time for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

The Middle East
TOP 15

1 **Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem** 97.500
2 **Jumeirah Mina A'Salam,** Dubai 94.345
3 **Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi** 91.667
4 **Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi** 90.905
5 **Jumeirah Beach Hotel,** Dubai 89.352
6 **Mamilla Hotel,** Jerusalem 88.698
7 **The Chedi Muscat,** Oman 87.821
8 **King David Jerusalem** 87.778
9 **Jumeirah at Etihad Towers,** Abu Dhabi 87.689
10 **JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai** 87.567
11 **Burj Al Arab Jumeirah,** Dubai 86.161
12 **Inbal Jerusalem Hotel** 85.944
13 **Dan Tel Aviv Hotel** 84.757
14 **Hilton Tel Aviv** 83.946
15 **David Citadel Hotel,** Jerusalem 82.667

Australia & New Zealand
TOP 15

1 **Park Hyatt Sydney** 88.707
2 **Park Hyatt Melbourne** 86.408
3 **Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay** 86.328
4 **Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney** 85.278
5 **The Langham, Melbourne** 84.367
6 **The Langham, Sydney** 84.327
7 **Hotel DeBrett,** Auckland 83.452
8 **1888 Hotel,** Sydney 83.095
9 **Crown Towers,** Melbourne 82.973
10 **Hilton Sydney** 82.594
11 **Four Seasons Hotel Sydney** 82.590
12 **InterContinental Sydney** 82.519
13 **Westin Melbourne** 82.319
14 **InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto** 82.024
15 **The Darling,** Sydney 82.014

For more on this year's Readers' Choice Awards, check out cntraveler.com/rca.



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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Islands



United States
TOP 10 ISLANDS

1 **Maui** 88.876
2 **Kauai** 86.537
3 **Oahu** 85.661
4 **Big Island** 84.654
5 **Sea Island,** Ga. 84.409
6 **Aquidneck Island,** R.I. 82.394
7 **Hilton Head Island,** S.C. 82.166
8 **Kiawah Island,** S.C. 80.731
9 **Longboat Key,** Fla. 79.985
10 **Amelia Island,** Fla. 79.640

Rest of the World
TOP 20 ISLANDS

1 **Palawan,** Philippines 85.937
2 **Bora Bora,** French Polynesia 84.756
3 **Moorea,** French Polynesia 84.656
4 **Waiheke Island,** New Zealand 84.447
5 **Bermuda** 84.245
6 **Great Barrier Reef,** Australia 83.420
7 **Vancouver Island,** B.C., Canada 82.495
8 **Bali,** Indonesia 82.330
9 **Santorini,** Greece 81.947
10 **Tasmania,** Australia 81.810
11 **Cook Islands** 81.326
12 **British Virgin Islands** 80.960
13 **St. John,** USVI 80.939
14 **Mykonos,** Greece 80.938
15 **Boracay,** Philippines 80.856
16 **Maldives** 80.833
17 **Orkney Islands,** Scotland 80.603
18 **St. Lucia** 80.569
19 **Cebu,** Philippines 80.404
20 **Hvar & Dalmatian Islands,** Croatia 80.264

Since first airing in 2011, HBO's *Game of Thrones* series has boosted Northern Ireland's economy by $170 million. Last year, 45 million tourists chose a trip based on countries that had served as filming locations for their favorite movies or TV shows.

79

The number of islands, along with 500 islets, that make up Croatia's spectacular Dalmatian Archipelago.

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Seven Seas Navigator®

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



Cities

United States
TOP 15 LARGE CITIES

1 **New York** 85.944
2 **San Francisco** 84.928
3 **Chicago** 83.875
4 **Boston** 83.513
5 **New Orleans** 82.870
6 **Washington, D.C.** 81.722
7 **Honolulu** 80.874
8 **Austin** 80.584
9 **Seattle** 80.330
10 **Portland,** Ore. 79.892
11 **San Diego** 79.564
12 **San Antonio** 79.440
13 **Nashville** 78.782
14 **Denver** 75.535
15 **Philadelphia** 75.210

United States
TOP 15 SMALL CITIES

1 **Charleston,** S.C. 88.130
2 **Santa Fe** 85.861
3 **Park City,** Utah 84.866
4 **Aspen** 83.069
5 **Savannah** 82.258
6 **Telluride** 81.973
7 **Sedona** 81.574
8 **Carmel-by-the-Sea** 81.285
9 **Asheville** 81.131
10 **Newport,** R.I. 80.333
11 **Napa** 80.092
12 **Taos** 79.827
13 **Laguna Beach** 79.461
14 **Santa Barbara** 78.518
15 **Naples,** Fla. 78.322

Rest of the World
TOP 30 CITIES

1 **Florence** 86.529
2 **Budapest** 86.090
3 **Vienna** 86.020
4 **Sydney** 85.687
5 **Paris** 85.485
6 **Rome** 85.408
7 **Prague** 85.309
8 **Bruges** 85.132
9 **Kyoto** 85.125
10 **London** 84.906
11 **Jerusalem** 84.715
12 **Salzburg** 84.272
13 **Venice** 84.232
14 **Barcelona** 84.178
15 **Tokyo** 84.004
16 **Cape Town** 83.806
17 **Amsterdam** 83.669
18 **Lucerne** 83.148
19 **Vancouver** 82.684
20 **Edinburgh** 82.512
21 **Siena** 82.289
22 **Madrid** 82.261
23 **Quebec City** 81.899
24 **Victoria,** B.C. 81.655
25 **Singapore** 81.550
26 **Hong Kong** 81.525
27 **Dublin** 81.372
28 **Shanghai** 81.304
29 **Dresden** 81.173
30 **Stockholm** 81.072

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Resorts



UNITED STATES

TOP 10 OVERALL

1 **The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch,** Saratoga, Wyo. 99.529
2 **Cal-a-Vie,** Vista, Calif. 98.006
3 **The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island,** Ga. 97.024
4 **C Lazy U Ranch,** Granby, Colo. 96.778
5 **The Resort at Paws Up,** Greenough, Mont. 96.731
6 **Hidden Pond,** Kennebunkport, Maine 96.690
7 **Triple Creek Ranch,** Darby, Mont. 96.131
8 **St. Regis Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 96.046
9 **The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club,** Ga. 95.977
10 **Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 95.943

New England
TOP 20

1 **Hidden Pond,** Kennebunkport, Maine 96.690
2 **Ocean House,** Watch Hill, R.I. 95.273
3 **Wequassett Resort and Golf Club,** Cape Cod 95.138
4 **Winvian,** Litchfield Hills, Conn. 95.016
5 **Winnetu Oceanside Resort,** Martha's Vineyard 94.345
6 **Mirbeau Inn & Spa at The Pinehills,** Plymouth, Mass. 93.590
7 **Weekapaug Inn,** Westerly, R.I. 93.258
8 **The Mansion at Ocean Edge Resort,** Cape Cod 92.908
9 **Woodstock Inn & Resort,** Vt. 92.148
10 **The Samoset Resort,** Rockport, Maine 91.243
11 **Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa,** Whitefield, N.H. 91.143
12 **Trapp Family Lodge,** Stowe, Vt. 90.362
13 **Stowe Mountain Lodge,** Vt. 89.575
14 **Omni Mount Washington Resort,** Bretton Woods, N.H. 87.829
15 **Inn by the Sea,** Cape Elizabeth, Maine 85.620
16 **The Villages at Ocean Edge Resort,** Cape Cod 85.168
17 **Chatham Bars Inn,** Cape Cod 84.991
18 **Canyon Ranch in Lenox,** Mass. 82.589
19 **Topnotch Resort,** Stowe, Vt. 82.147
20 **Equinox (Luxury Collection),** Manchester Village, Vt. 82.113

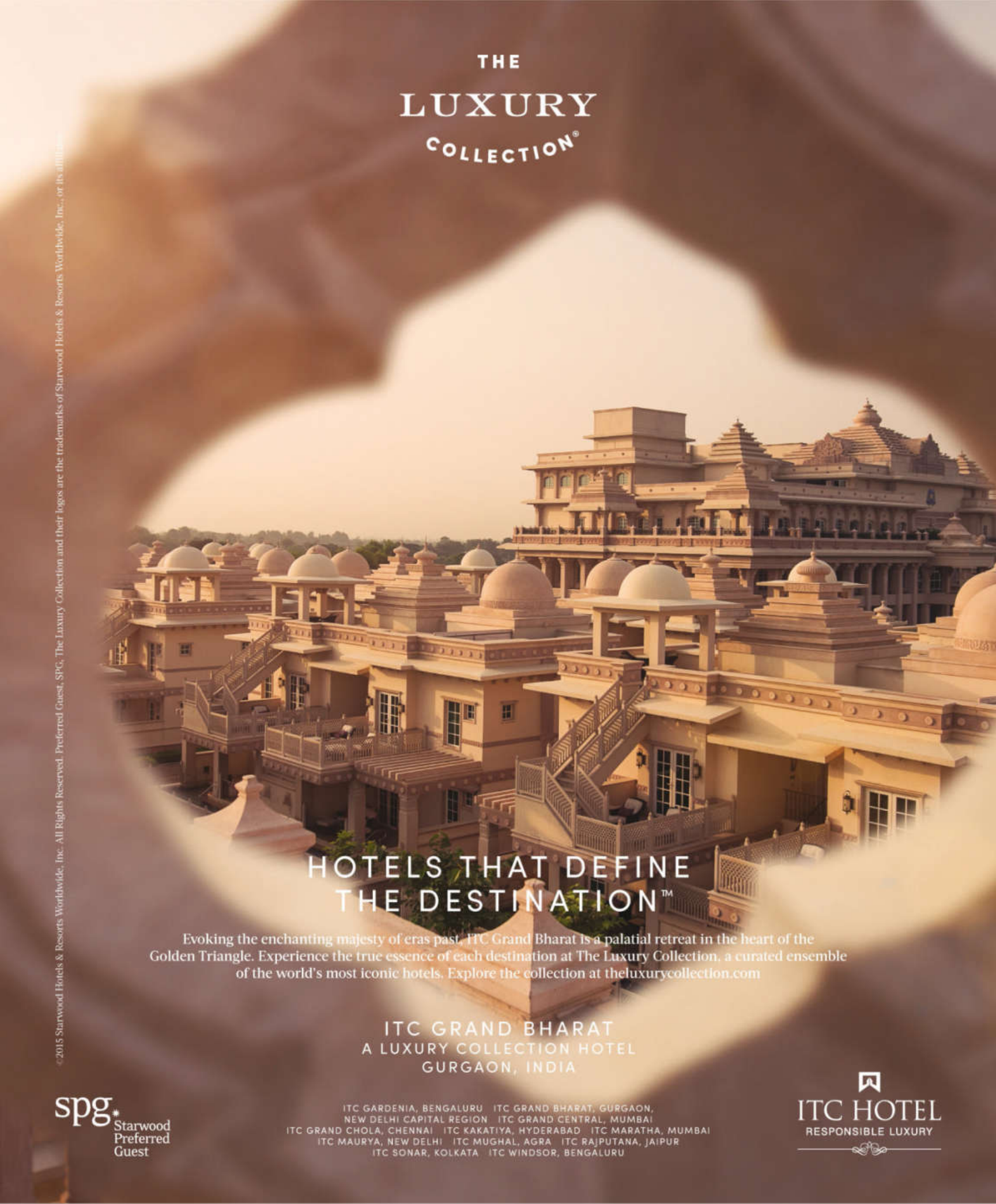
700
SQUARE FEET

Size of the luxury yurt at America's top resort, The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch in Wyoming—accessible only on horseback.

New York State & the Mid-Atlantic
TOP 10

1 **The Lodge at Woodloch,** Hawley, Pa. 94.675
2 **Whiteface Lodge,** Lake Placid, N.Y. 93.585
3 **Falling Rock at Nemacolin Woodlands,** Farmington, Pa. 91.865
4 **Lake Placid Lodge,** N.Y. 90.233
5 **Mirbeau Inn & Spa,** Skaneateles, N.Y. 89.950
6 **Mohonk Mountain House,** New Paltz, N.Y. 89.797
7 **The Sagamore,** Lake George, N.Y. 89.485
8 **Mirror Lake Inn Resort and Spa,** Lake Placid, N.Y. 88.415
9 **The Point,** Saranac Lake, N.Y. 85.714
10 **Omni Bedford Springs Resort,** Bedford, Pa. 85.126

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

The Midwest
TOP 10

1 **Canoe Bay,** Chetek, Wis. 93.254
2 **Big Cedar Lodge,** Ridgedale, Mo. 92.143
3 **The Osthoff Resort,** Elkhart Lake, Wis. 91.156
4 **Sundara Inn & Spa,** Wisconsin Dells 90.668
5 **The American Club,** Kohler, Wis. 89.118
6 **Carriage House Suites at the American Club,** Kohler, Wis. 87.235
7 **Madden's on Gull Lake,** Brainerd, Minn. 86.870
8 **West Baden Springs Hotel,** French Lick, Ind. 86.620
9 **Grand Hotel,** Mackinac Island, Mich. 86.348
10 **Grand View Lodge Golf Resort & Spa,** Nisswa, Minn. 83.216

The South
TOP 20

1 **The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island,** Ga. 97.024
2 **The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club,** Ga. 95.977
3 **Primland Resort,** Meadows of Dan, Va. 95.862
4 **The Cloister,** Sea Island, Ga. 94.697
5 **The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, A Montage Resort,** Bluffton, S.C. 94.581
6 **The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort,** S.C. 92.870
7 **Salamander Resort & Spa,** Middleburg, Va. 92.519
8 **Colonial Houses,** Williamsburg, Va. 91.552
9 **Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort,** Hilton Head Island, S.C. 91.396
10 **Greystone Inn,** Lake Toxaway, N.C. 88.736
11 **Williamsburg Inn,** Va. 88.609
12 **Pinehurst Resort,** N.C. 87.401
13 **The Greenbrier,** White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. 87.208
14 **The Omni Homestead Resort,** Hot Springs, Va. 86.062
15 **The Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge (Luxury Collection),** Charlotte, N.C. 83.581
16 **The Omni Grove Park Inn,** Asheville, N.C. 82.950
17 **The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens,** Pine Mountain, Ga. 82.937
18 **Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation,** Greensboro, Ga. 82.902
19 **Jekyll Island Club Hotel,** Ga. 82.138
20 **Wild Dunes Resort,** Isle of Palms, S.C. 82.116

Florida (Atlantic & the Keys)
TOP 25

1 **Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa,** Manalapan 91.917
2 **Acqualina Resort & Spa on the Beach,** Sunny Isles Beach 90.875
3 **Little Palm Island Resort & Spa,** Little Torch Key 90.199
4 **The Moorings Village & Spa,** Islamorada 89.675
5 **The Breakers Palm Beach** 88.489
6 **Sunset Key Cottages (Luxury Collection),** Key West 87.277
7 **Hammock Beach Resort,** Palm Coast 86.988
8 **Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach** 86.620
9 **Ocean Key Resort & Spa,** Key West 86.194
10 **Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale** 86.104
11 **Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island** 85.900
12 **The Marker Waterfront Resort Key West** 85.342
13 **One Ocean Resort & Spa,** Atlantic Beach 85.302
14 **St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort** 84.807
15 **Pier House Resort & Spa,** Key West 84.588
16 **Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa,** Vero Beach 84.352
17 **Elizabeth Pointe Lodge,** Amelia Island 84.254
18 **Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne** 83.354
19 **Disney's Vero Beach Resort** 83.165
20 **Boca Beach Club (Waldorf Astoria),** Boca Raton 83.107
21 **Pelican Grand Beach Resort,** Fort Lauderdale 82.925
22 **Ponte Vedra Inn & Club** 82.884
23 **Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort** 82.797
24 **Hawks Cay Resort,** Duck Key 82.558
25 **Ritz-Carlton Bal Harbour, Miami** 82.434

32

GUESTS

Maximum overnight guests at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island at any given time—the perfect place for a full-island rental.

$3.50

PER PERSON

Cost of admission to Walt Disney World when it opened in 1971.

Florida (Gulf & Central)
TOP 25

1 **WaterColor Inn & Resort,** Santa Rosa Beach 93.959
2 **The Gasparilla Inn & Club,** Boca Grande 91.085
3 **Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes** 90.919
4 **B Resort & Spa,** Lake Buena Vista 89.859
5 **Sandpearl Resort,** Clearwater Beach 89.759
6 **LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort,** Naples 89.634
7 **The Resort at Longboat Key Club** 88.080
8 **Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa,** Lake Buena Vista 87.108
9 **Ritz-Carlton, Naples** 86.850
10 **Disney's Wilderness Lodge,** Lake Buena Vista 86.429
11 **Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge,** Lake Buena Vista 85.990
12 **Disney's Yacht Club Resort,** Lake Buena Vista 85.669
13 **Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota** 83.888
14 **JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes** 83.789
15 **Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando** 83.665
16 **Disney's BoardWalk Inn,** Lake Buena Vista 83.450
17 **Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples** 83.313
18 **Marco Beach Ocean Resort,** Marco Island 83.283
19 **Wyndham Bonnet Creek Resort,** Lake Buena Vista 83.186
20 **The Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club** 83.039
21 **Disney's Beach Club Resort,** Lake Buena Vista 82.997
22 **Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort** 82.724
23 **Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort,** Lake Buena Vista 82.327
24 **Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge,** Orlando 82.238
25 **Disney's Polynesian Village Resort,** Lake Buena Vista 82.015

Texas & the Southwest
TOP 25

1 **Lake Austin Spa Resort** 94.511
2 **Travaasa Austin** 94.335
3 **Mii Amo,** Sedona 93.168
4 **Miraval Arizona Resort & Spa,** Tucson 90.808
5 **Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort and Spa,** Scottsdale 90.395
6 **Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North** 89.232
7 **Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain,** Marana, Ariz. 88.473
8 **Enchantment Resort,** Sedona 87.525
9 **Royal Palms Resort and Spa,** Phoenix 86.517
10 **The Phoenician (Luxury Collection),** Scottsdale 86.203
11 **Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe** 85.943
12 **Ten Thousand Waves,** Santa Fe 85.725
13 **The Wigwam,** Litchfield Park, Ariz. 84.678
14 **Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas** 84.363
15 **Tanque Verde Ranch,** Tucson 84.107
16 **The Boulders,** Carefree, Ariz. 83.844
17 **JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa** 83.662
18 **Fairmont Scottsdale Princess** 83.659
19 **JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa** 83.631
20 **Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa,** Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M. 83.384
21 **Loews Ventana Canyon Resort,** Tucson 82.584
22 **Omni Tucson National Resort** 82.455
23 **Arizona Biltmore (Waldorf Astoria),** Phoenix 82.327
24 **El Monte Sagrado Living Resort & Spa,** Taos 82.099
25 **Canyon Ranch in Tucson** 82.047

Colorado
TOP 20

1 **C Lazy U Ranch,** Granby 96.778
2 **Gateway Canyons Resort,** Gateway 93.703
3 **The Little Nell,** Aspen 92.591
4 **Viceroy Snowmass** 90.997
5 **The Broadmoor,** Colorado Springs 90.506


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GUANAJUATO

MEXICO'S CREATIVE SOUL

Fall under San Miguel de Allende's singular spell

GENERAL IGNACIO ALLENDE IS CONSIDERED A national hero for his hand in liberating Mexico from Spain, so it's almost destined that a prevailing independent spirit would permeate his native city of San Miguel de Allende. Since the 1930s, those with a creative bent have flocked to this charming enclave —located in the state of Guanajuato—to immerse themselves in its vibrant art scene, eclectic festivals, and inspirational landscapes.

The stately Instituto Allende is the town's hub of ingenuity, where courses are offered in everything from sculpture to silk-screen. Stroll through this former hacienda's pristine grounds and peruse artisans' wares on the terrace overlooking the stunning backdrop of the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel. This neo-gothic cake-topper of a church is a must-visit with its stunning pink limestone façade and a small crypt where several Mexican war heroes were laid to rest.

Take pause in the vast Jardín Principal at the church's entrance to the strings of mariachi bands, before meandering through the cobbled streets to duck into any number of the first-class restaurants that have given the town its "foodie" reputation. (Let's just say there's a reason *Top Chef* shot last season's three-part finale here.)


Vineyard

Besides culture and cuisine, the area has also become renowned for is its wine production. With rich soil that is said to bring balance and a calming energy to the grapes, several boutique vineyards are now winning international awards. One such brand is Cuna de Tierra ("Cradle of the Earth")—a fitting description for this world-class community itself, nestled in the heart of the nation.


The Nigromante Cultural Center

PHOTOGRAPHS TOP AND RIGHT, GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM RIGHT, COURTESY MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF THE STATE OF GUANAJUATO

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

6 **Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa at Beaver Creek** 90.439
7 **Sonnenalp,** Vail 89.824
8 **The Osprey at Beaver Creek** 89.096
9 **The Arrabelle at Vail Square** 89.071
10 **Fairmont Heritage Place, Franz Klammer Lodge,** Telluride 89.055
11 **Four Seasons Resort Vail** 88.765
12 **Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa** 88.286
13 **St. Regis Aspen Resort** 86.765
14 **The Peaks Resort and Spa,** Telluride 85.608
15 **Dunton Hot Springs,** Dolores 85.565
16 **The Lodge at Vail** 83.865
17 **The Pines Lodge,** Beaver Creek 83.544
18 **Beaver Creek Lodge** 83.536
19 **The Inn at Lost Creek Telluride** 83.272
20 **Devil's Thumb Ranch Resort & Spa,** Tabernash 82.398

The West
TOP 20

1 **The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch,** Saratoga, Wyo. 99.529
2 **The Resort at Paws Up,** Greenough, Mont. 96.731
3 **Triple Creek Ranch,** Darby, Mont. 96.131
4 **St. Regis Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 96.046
5 **Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 95.943
6 **Hotel Park City,** Utah 95.819
7 **Montage Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 94.132
8 **Hotel Terra Jackson Hole,** Wyo. 93.050
9 **Red Mountain Resort,** St. George, Utah 92.785
10 **Hyatt Escala Lodge at Park City,** Utah 91.058
11 **Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole,** Wyo. 89.366
12 **Lodges at Deer Valley,** Park City, Utah 88.607
13 **Waldorf Astoria Park City,** Utah 88.365
14 **Amangiri,** Canyon Point, Utah 87.885
15 **Sorrel River Ranch Resort & Spa,** Moab, Utah 87.454
16 **Amangani,** Jackson, Wyo. 86.989
17 **Sundance Mountain Resort,** Utah 84.216
18 **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino,** Nev. 83.151
19 **Coeur d'Alene Resort,** Idaho 82.647
20 **Jenny Lake Lodge,** Grand Teton National Park, Wyo. 82.615

Northern California
TOP 15

1 **The Landing Resort & Spa,** South Lake Tahoe 94.499
2 **Casa Palmero at Pebble Beach** 92.616
3 **Meadowood Napa Valley** 91.984
4 **Rosewood CordeValle,** San Martin 90.909
5 **Solage Calistoga,** Napa Valley 89.719
6 **The Lodge at Pebble Beach,** Monterey 89.004
7 **Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe** 87.256
8 **Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay** 87.230
9 **Calistoga Ranch,** Napa Valley 87.089
10 **The Inn at Spanish Bay,** Monterey 86.709
11 **Carmel Valley Ranch** 86.651
12 **Kenwood Inn and Spa,** Sonoma 86.190
13 **Vintage Inn,** Yountville 85.033
14 **The Westin Monache Resort, Mammoth,** Mammoth Lakes 84.987
15 **The Ahwahnee,** Yosemite National Park 84.013

Southern California
TOP 20

1 **Cal-a-Vie,** Vista 98.006
2 **Montage Laguna Beach** 93.854
3 **Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa,** Rancho Santa Fe 92.524
4 **The Resort at Pelican Hill,** Newport Beach 91.262
5 **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa** 90.260
6 **Terranea Resort,** Rancho Palos Verdes 89.913
7 **Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore Santa Barbara** 87.402
8 **Fairmont Grand Del Mar,** San Diego 87.037
9 **St. Regis Monarch Beach,** Dana Point 86.820
10 **Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel,** Dana Point 86.328
11 **Surf & Sand Resort,** Laguna Beach 86.001
12 **Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage** 85.695
13 **Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Resort & Spa,** San Diego 85.637
14 **Park Hyatt Aviara Resort,** Carlsbad 83.403
15 **The Oaks at Ojai** 83.078
16 **Bacara Resort & Spa,** Santa Barbara 82.948
17 **Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa,** Anaheim 82.775
18 **Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa** 82.532
19 **The Lodge at Torrey Pines,** La Jolla 82.007
20 **Hotel del Coronado,** San Diego 82.004

Alaska & the Pacific Northwest
TOP 12

1 **Brasada Ranch,** Powell Butte, Ore. 93.362
2 **Willows Lodge,** Woodinville, Wash. 89.063
3 **Salishan Spa & Golf Resort,** Gleneden Beach, Ore. 88.748
4 **Inn at Langley,** Whidbey Island, Wash. 86.282
5 **Woodmark Hotel, Yacht Club & Spa,** Kirkland, Wash. 85.175
6 **Suncadia Resort,** Cle Elum, Wash. 85.103
7 **Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge,** Cooper Landing, Alaska 84.763
8 **The Inn at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort,** Bandon, Ore. 83.912
9 **Alderbrook Resort & Spa,** Union, Wash. 83.577
10 **Alyeska Resort,** Girdwood, Alaska 83.404
11 **Timberline Lodge,** Mount Hood, Ore. 82.412
12 **Skamania Lodge,** Stevenson, Wash. 82.393

Hawaii
TOP 25

1 **Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort at Poipu Beach,** Kauai 95.192
2 **Montage Kapalua Bay,** Maui 94.473
3 **Travaasa Hana,** Maui 92.230
4 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel,** Big Island 92.024
5 **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai,** Big Island 90.023
6 **Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay,** Lanai 88.744
7 **Wailea Beach Villas,** Maui 88.533
8 **St. Regis Princeville Resort,** Kauai 88.366
9 **Fairmont Kea Lani,** Maui 87.993
10 **Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea** 87.870
11 **Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa,** Oahu 87.414
12 **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows,** Big Island 86.945
13 **Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua,** Maui 86.134
14 **Four Seasons Resort Lana'i, The Lodge at Koele,** Lana'i 86.000
15 **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa** 85.758
16 **The Kahala Hotel & Resort,** Oahu 85.729
17 **Grand Wailea (Waldorf Astoria),** Maui 85.689
18 **Turtle Bay Resort,** Oahu 84.886
19 **Fairmont Orchid,** Big Island 84.276
20 **Makena Beach & Golf Resort,** Maui 83.947
21 **Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort** 83.798
22 **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa** 83.648
23 **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel,** Big Island 82.695
24 **Kauai Marriott Resort** 82.479
25 **Waimea Plantation Cottages,** Kauai 82.126

26
YEARS
Consecutive times that the Halekulani hotel in Honolulu has won a Readers' Choice Award.



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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



REST OF THE WORLD

Canada
TOP 20

1 **Nita Lake Lodge,** Whistler, B.C. 96.248
2 **Wickaninnish Inn,** Vancouver Island, B.C. 88.058
3 **Post Hotel & Spa,** Lake Louise, Alberta 88.019
4 **Four Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler,** B.C. 87.557
5 **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise,** Alberta 87.120
6 **Fairmont Chateau Whistler,** B.C. 86.068
7 **JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort & Spa,** Minett, Ontario 85.714
8 **Moraine Lake Lodge,** Lake Louise, Alberta 85.357
9 **Emerald Lake Lodge,** Yoho National Park, B.C. 84.670
10 **Fairmont Banff Springs,** Alberta 84.203
11 **Long Beach Lodge Resort,** Vancouver Island, B.C. 84.017
12 **Fairmont Tremblant,** Mont-Tremblant, Quebec 83.632
13 **Mineral Springs Resort,** Salt Spring Island, B.C. 83.168
14 **The Algonquin Resort St. Andrews by-the-Sea,** New Brunswick 82.879
15 **Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu,** Charlevoix, Quebec 82.850
16 **Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside,** B.C. 82.197
17 **Black Rock Oceanfront Resort,** Vancouver Island, B.C. 82.181
18 **Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge,** Alberta 82.148
19 **Le Germain Hotel Charlevoix,** Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec 82.102
20 **Pan Pacific Whistler Village Centre,** B.C. 82.091

61.5

MILLION

Total number of passengers who passed through Indianapolis and Singapore airports—the top-rated domestic and international airports, respectively.

Mexico (Caribbean Coast)
TOP 20

1 **Generations Riviera Maya** 94.595
2 **Viceroy Riviera Maya** 93.463
3 **Zoëtry Paraiso de la Bonita Riviera Maya** 93.367
4 **Rosewood Mayakoba** 93.075
5 **El Dorado Maroma** 90.929
6 **Le Blanc Spa Resort,** Cancún 90.628
7 **Belmond Maroma Resort & Spa** 90.038
8 **Fairmont Mayakoba** 86.905
9 **Excellence Playa Mujeres** 86.485
10 **Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Cancun** 86.277
11 **InterContinental Presidente Cozumel Resort Spa** 85.913
12 **Grand Velas Riviera Maya** 85.895
13 **Royal Hideaway Playacar** 85.714
14 **Live Aqua Cancun** 85.648
15 **Ritz-Carlton, Cancun** 84.921
16 **Nizuc Resort & Spa,** Cancún 84.590
17 **JW Marriott Cancun Resort & Spa** 83.876
18 **Secrets the Vine Cancun** 83.673
19 **Banyan Tree Mayakoba** 82.841
20 **The Royal Playa del Carmen** 82.823

Mexico (Pacific Coast)
TOP 20

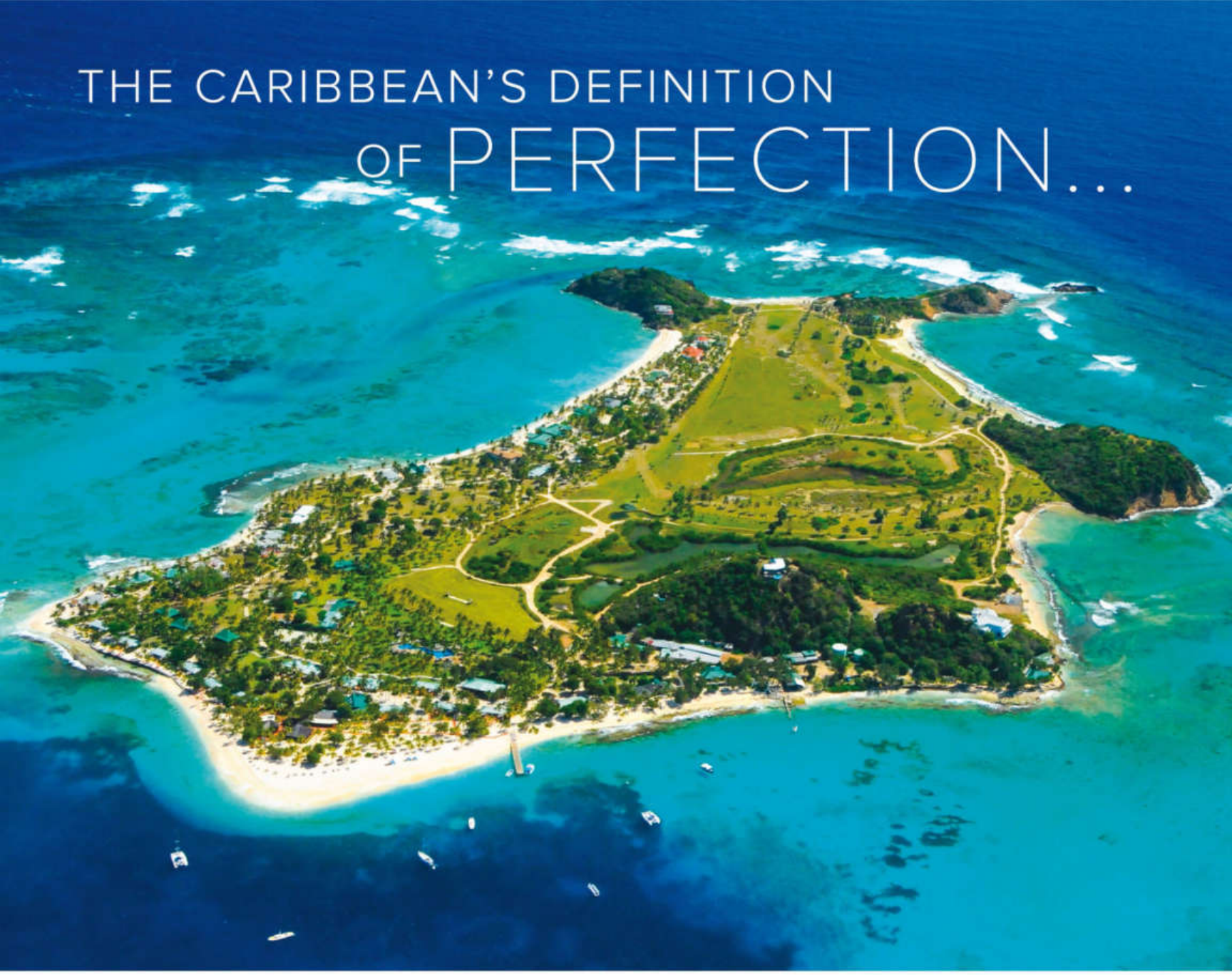
1 **Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita** 96.079
2 **Rancho La Puerta,** Tecate 95.636
3 **Pueblo Bonito Mazatlán** 92.155
4 **Las Ventanas al Paraíso (Rosewood),** San José del Cabo 91.917
5 **Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay Resort & Spa,** Mazatlán 91.864
6 **One&Only Palmilla,** San José del Cabo 91.460
7 **Capella Ixtapa** 91.056
8 **Viceroy Zihuatanejo** 90.833
9 **St. Regis Punta Mita Resort** 90.830
10 **Esperanza (An Auberge Resort),** Cabo San Lucas 90.287
11 **The Resort at Pedregal (formerly Capella),** Cabo San Lucas 89.541
12 **Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Golf & Spa Resort,** Cabo San Lucas 89.368
13 **Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort,** Cabo San Lucas 89.214
14 **Rancho Pescadero,** Todos Santos 89.167
15 **Marquis Los Cabos Resort & Spa (formerly Secrets),** San José del Cabo 88.350
16 **Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit,** Nuevo Vallarta 88.021
17 **La Casa Que Canta,** Zihuatanejo 86.574
18 **Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta,** Nuevo Vallarta 83.915
19 **Hacienda Encantada Resort & Spa,** Cabo San Lucas 82.375
20 **Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa,** Cabo San Lucas 82.353

Caribbean Islands
TOP 40

1 **Jade Mountain,** St. Lucia 95.312
2 **Guana Island,** BVI 94.334
3 **Montpelier Plantation & Beach,** Nevis 94.177
4 **Ladera Resort,** St. Lucia 93.158
5 **Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort,** St. Lucia 92.409
6 **Petit St. Vincent Resort,** St. Vincent and the Grenadines 91.629
7 **Nisbet Plantation Beach Club,** Nevis 91.307
8 **Eden Rock–St Barths** 91.286
9 **Tortuga Bay Puntacana Resort & Club,** Dominican Republic 90.774
10 **Rosalie Bay Resort,** Dominica 90.693
11 **Jamaica Inn,** Ocho Rios, Jamaica 90.358
12 **Le Guanahani,** St. Barts 90.232
13 **The Peninsula House,** Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic 90.000
14 **Palm Island Resort,** St. Vincent and the Grenadines 89.980
15 **The Hermitage Plantation Inn,** Nevis 89.744
16 **Viceroy Anguilla** 89.696
17 **Curtain Bluff,** Antigua 89.269
18 **Round Hill Hotel and Villas,** Montego Bay, Jamaica 89.145
19 **Sandals LaSource Grenada** 88.980
20 **Dorado Beach (A Ritz-Carlton Reserve),** Puerto Rico 88.958
21 **Cap Maison,** St. Lucia 88.826
22 **The BodyHoliday,** St. Lucia 88.719
23 **Hôtel Le Toiny,** St. Barts 88.542
24 **Hermitage Bay,** Antigua 88.095
25 **Zoëtry Agua Punta Cana,** Dominican Republic 87.768
26 **Mallioubana (An Auberge Resort),** Anguilla 87.619
27 **Jumby Bay (Rosewood),** Antigua 87.547
28 **Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman** 86.703
29 **Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France,** St. Barts 86.122
30 **Anse Chastanet,** St. Lucia 85.667
31 **The Caves,** Negril, Jamaica 85.125
32 **Rosewood Little Dix Bay,** Virgin Gorda, BVI 84.920
33 **Fairmont Royal Pavilion,** Barbados 83.801
34 **Strawberry Hill,** Blue Mountains, Jamaica 83.790
35 **Le Sereno,** St. Barts 83.705
36 **Four Seasons Resort Nevis** 83.563
37 **Half Moon, Rose Hall,** Jamaica 83.291
38 **Caneel Bay,** St. John, USVI 83.231
39 **Peter Island Resort & Spa,** BVI 83.195
40 **Couples Swept Away,** Negril, Jamaica 83.149

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Where did honeymooners and parents with kids both want to go? Costa Rica, for its hot springs–fed plunge pools and jungle ziplines.

Atlantic Islands
TOP 10

1 **The Reefs Resort & Club,** Bermuda 91.824
2 **Amanyara,** Turks and Caicos 91.619
3 **Parrot Cay by COMO,** Turks and Caicos 87.534
4 **Rosewood Tucker's Point,** Bermuda 85.656
5 **The Palms Turks & Caicos (formerly Regent)** 85.486
6 **Sandals Emerald Bay,** Great Exuma, Bahamas 84.854
7 **Seven Stars Resort,** Turks and Caicos 84.088
8 **Grace Bay Club,** Turks and Caicos 83.911
9 **One&Only Ocean Club,** Paradise Island, Bahamas 82.186
10 **Gansevoort Turks & Caicos** 82.122

Central & South America
TOP 15

1 **Nayara Springs,** Arenal, Costa Rica 97.091
2 **Nayara Hotel, Spa & Gardens,** Arenal, Costa Rica 95.584
3 **Mukul Beach, Golf & Spa,** Guacalito de la Isla, Nicaragua 94.200
4 **Ponta dos Ganchos,** Santa Catarina, Brazil 94.108
5 **Hotel Punta Islita,** Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica 90.637
6 **El Silencio Lodge & Spa,** Bajos del Toro, Costa Rica 89.583
7 **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort,** Culebra Bay, Costa Rica 87.912
8 **Tambo del Inka Resort & Spa (Luxury Collection),** Sacred Valley, Peru 87.500
9 **Sol & Luna Lodge Spa,** Sacred Valley, Peru 84.727
10 **Arenas del Mar,** Manuel Antonio National Park, Costa Rica 83.027
11 **Llao Llao Hotel & Resort,** San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina 82.468
12 **Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo** 82.342
13 **Casa Andina Private Collection Valle Sagrado,** Peru 82.138
14 **JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa,** Costa Rica 82.047
15 **Iguazu Grand Resort Spa & Casino,** Puerto Iguazú, Argentina 82.031

Europe
TOP 30

1 **Canaves Oia Santorini,** Greece 95.713
2 **Trump International Hotel & Golf Links,** Co. Clare, Ireland 94.697
3 **Perivolas,** Santorini, Greece 94.085
4 **Ashford Castle,** Co. Mayo, Ireland 93.387
5 **The Gleneagles Hotel,** Perthshire, Scotland 92.481
6 **Badrutt's Palace Hotel,** St. Moritz, Switzerland 92.208
7 **Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa,** Hampshire, England 90.873
8 **Powerscourt Hotel,** Co. Wicklow, Ireland 89.928
9 **Sheen Falls Lodge,** Co. Kerry, Ireland 89.674
10 **The Dolder Grand,** Zurich, Switzerland 89.524
11 **Kildare Hotel, At The K Club,** Co. Kildare, Ireland 89.167
12 **Dromoland Castle Hotel & Country Estate,** Co. Clare, Ireland 89.073
13 **Mystique (Luxury Collection),** Santorini, Greece 88.628
14 **Grand Hotel Zermatterhof,** Zermatt, Switzerland 88.393
15 **Baumanière & Spa–La Cabro d'Or,** France 88.284
16 **Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort,** Co. Limerick, Ireland 88.079
17 **Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire, England** 88.025
18 **Mount Juliet Estate,** Co. Kilkenny, Ireland 87.680
19 **Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa,** St. Andrews, Scotland 87.351
20 **Trump Turnberry (Luxury Collection),** Ayrshire, Scotland 86.480
21 **Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort,** Provence, France 86.310
22 **Belmond La Residencia,** Mallorca, Spain 86.309
23 **Villa d'Este,** Lake Como, Italy 86.304
24 **Blue Palace Resort & Spa (Luxury Collection),** Crete, Greece 86.208
25 **Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa,** Co. Kerry, Ireland 86.086
26 **Hotel Monte Mulini,** Rovinj, Croatia 85.767
27 **CastaDiva Resort & Spa,** Lake Como, Italy 85.364
28 **Belmond Reid's Palace,** Madeira, Portugal 85.204
29 **Marbella Club Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa,** Spain 84.431
30 **Mykonos Grand Hotel & Resort,** Greece 82.015

1864

Year that the Swiss Alps welcomed its first winter tourists, encouraged by famed hotelier Johannes Badrutt.



Asia
TOP 25

1 **ITC Grand Bharat (Luxury Collection),** Haryana, India 98.319
2 **Cheval Blanc Randheli,** Maldives 94.925
3 **Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa, Cebu,** Philippines 94.916
4 **St. Regis Bali Resort,** Indonesia 93.016
5 **Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle,** Chiang Rai, Thailand 92.857
6 **The Mulia,** Bali, Indonesia 92.833
7 **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan,** Indonesia 91.615
8 **Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai,** Thailand 91.424
9 **Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort,** Siem Reap, Cambodia 90.964
10 **Oberoi Vanyavilas,** Rajasthan, India 90.062
11 **St. Regis Lhasa Resort,** Tibet, China 88.923
12 **The Nam Hai Hoi An,** Vietnam 88.462
13 **The Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai,** Thailand 87.302
14 **JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa,** Thailand 86.084
15 **Anantara Hoi An Resort,** Vietnam 85.395
16 **Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa,** Thailand 85.084
17 **Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort,** Chiang Rai, Thailand 84.439
18 **Amanpuri,** Phuket, Thailand 84.018
19 **El Nido Resorts–Pangulasian Island,** Palawan, Philippines 83.647
20 **W Retreat & Spa Bali-Seminyak,** Indonesia 83.405
21 **The Andaman (Luxury Collection),** Langkawi, Malaysia 83.214
22 **Four Seasons Resort Langkawi,** Malaysia 82.971
23 **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay,** Indonesia 82.393
24 **The Legian Bali,** Indonesia 82.293
25 **Rayavadee,** Krabi, Thailand 82.027

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FROM SKI SLOPES TO HOT SPRINGS — JAPAN'S WINTER UTOPIA

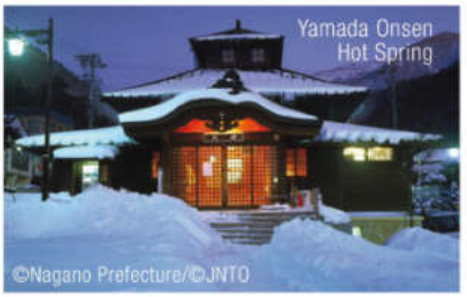
Niseko in Hokkaido
© Menno Boermans/Aurora Photos/Corbis

Ski enthusiasts have been flocking to Japan's slopes for years, drawn by some of the best powder snow in the world, top-class resorts, and that finest of Japanese traditions: soaking in hot springs at the end of the day. The most famous ski destinations are in **Nagano** and **Hokkaido** prefectures, both of which hosted the winter Olympics and offer courses for all levels of skiers and snowboarders. Both regions are especially enticing with their powder snow, night skiing and long winter season stretching until May.



Niseko, 60 miles southwest of Sapporo in Hokkaido, is the most famous international ski resort, renowned for its constant snowfall that produces a fine and dry deep powder that's ranked among the best in the world. Niseko's resort villages, each with its own characteristics and appeal, offer vast runs and interconnected lifts that offer days of exploration through a variety of terrain, from groomed alpine slopes and trails through trees to off-piste backcountry.

Throw in a wide range of facilities that include accommodations at all price levels, restaurants with English menus serving a variety of international cuisines, hot-spring spas and après-ski establishments, and it's easy to see why Niseko is a mecca for winter sports enthusiasts from around the world.



For a more rustic and traditional ski adventure, **Nozawa Hot-Spring Village** in Nagano Prefecture is one of Japan's oldest ski resorts; the sport introduced here in 1912. Site of the biathlon competition for the 1998 Olympics, Nozawa today offers Snow Park with rails, a half pipe, and other challenging attractions. Most tourists come to Nozawa not only to ski but to also indulge themselves in one of Japan's most famous hot-spring resorts. A quaint village with traditional architecture, Nozawa boasts 13 public bathhouses and several outdoor footbaths, all free of charge.

Another popular Nagano destination is the **Shiga-Kogen Highlands** area, home to more than 20 ski resorts and natural hot springs, like the hot-spring villages of **Yamada** and **Yudanaka-Shibu**, both with histories stretching back hundreds of years.

From its ski slopes to hot-spring baths, not to mention its bounty of local cuisine, Japan is the ultimate winter destination.

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



Australia & the South Pacific
TOP 25

1 **Aro Hā Wellness Retreat,** Glenorchy, New Zealand 96.739
2 **The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs,** Matauri Bay, New Zealand 94.606
3 **Southern Ocean Lodge,** Kangaroo Island, Australia 94.231
4 **Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa,** Raiatea, French Polynesia 93.122
5 **St. Regis Bora Bora Resort,** French Polynesia 91.667
6 **Qualia,** Great Barrier Reef, Australia 91.369
7 **Matangi Private Island Resort,** Fiji 90.179
8 **Matakauri Lodge,** Queenstown, New Zealand 89.951
9 **Huka Lodge,** Taupo, New Zealand 89.524
10 **Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora,** French Polynesia 89.214
11 **Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge,** Tasmania, Australia 89.025
12 **InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa,** French Polynesia 89.021
13 **Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa,** Cook Islands 88.532
14 **Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa,** French Polynesia 87.811
15 **Lizard Island,** Great Barrier Reef, Australia 87.723
16 **One&Only Hayman Island,** Great Barrier Reef, Australia 86.424
17 **Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa,** French Polynesia 86.235
18 **Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa,** Rangiroa, French Polynesia 86.012
19 **Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa,** French Polynesia 85.956
20 **Te Waonui Forest Retreat,** Franz Josef Glacier, New Zealand 85.583
21 **Heron Island,** Great Barrier Reef, Australia 85.254
22 **Castaway Island Fiji** 84.762
23 **Treetops Lodge & Estate,** Rotorua, New Zealand 84.755
24 **InterContinental Le Moana Bora Bora,** French Polynesia 82.727
25 **Longitude 131°,** Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia 82.653

All but one of the resorts in Australia and the South Pacific are on islands—the farthest from the U.S. being Kangaroo Island, in the Great Australian Bight.

350,000

ACRES

The privately held land that Singita Grumeti, the No. 1 resort in the world, occupies adjacent to the Serengeti in Tanzania.

South Africa
TOP 12

1 **Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat,** Cederberg Mountains 98.945
2 **andBeyond Lodges & Camps at Sabi Sand Game Reserve** 96.627
3 **Singita Sabi Sand** 96.561
4 **Madikwe Safari Lodge,** Madikwe Game Reserve 96.468
5 **andBeyond Phinda Private Game Reserve** 95.617
6 **Singita Kruger National Park** 95.211
7 **Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve** 95.035
8 **Londolozi Game Reserve,** Sabi Sand 94.986
9 **Lion Sands Game Reserve,** Sabi Sand 93.024
10 **MalaMala Game Reserve,** Sabi Sand 91.460
11 **Thornybush Game Lodge,** Kruger National Park 91.262
12 **Palace of the Lost City,** Sun City 83.508

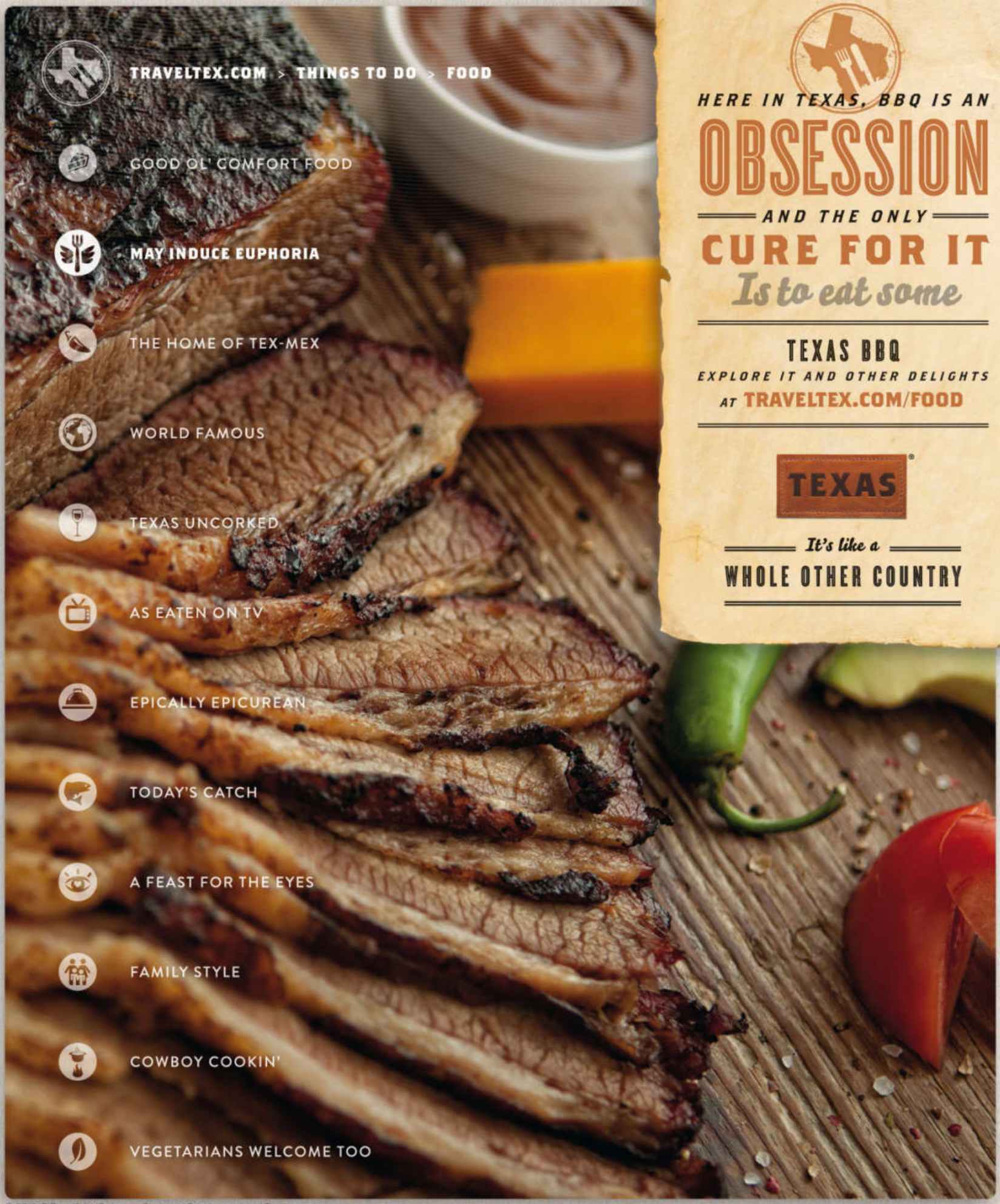
Africa
(not including South Africa)
TOP 30

1 **Singita Grumeti,** Serengeti, Tanzania 99.745
2 **Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti,** Tanzania 96.805
3 **Sanctuary Swala Camp,** Tarangire National Park, Tanzania 95.739
4 **Kirawira Serena Camp,** Serengeti, Tanzania 94.773
5 **Sanctuary Sussi & Chuma,** Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia 93.043
6 **andBeyond Bateleur Camp,** Masai Mara, Kenya 92.857
7 **Sanctuary Chief's Camp,** Moremi, Botswana 92.483
8 **andBeyond Chobe Under Canvas,** Botswana 92.063
9 **Mombo Camp and Little Mombo,** Moremi, Botswana 91.733
10 **andBeyond Grumeti Serengeti Tented Camp,** Tanzania 91.582
11 **andBeyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge,** Tanzania 90.883
12 **Savute Safari Lodge,** Chobe, Botswana 90.816
13 **andBeyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp,** Masai Mara, Kenya 90.451
14 **Tarangire Sopa Lodge,** Tanzania 90.052
15 **Fairmont Mara Safari Club,** Masai Mara, Kenya 89.146
16 **Governors' Camp Collection,** Masai Mara, Kenya 88.929
17 **Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge,** Tanzania 88.261
18 **Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club,** Kenya 88.236
19 **andBeyond Serengeti Under Canvas,** Tanzania 88.035
20 **Tortilis Camp,** Amboseli, Kenya 87.500
21 **Mara Serena Safari Lodge,** Masai Mara, Kenya 87.243
22 **Serengeti Sopa Lodge,** Tanzania 86.942
23 **Camp Okavango,** Botswana 85.737
24 **Samburu Game Lodge,** Samburu National Reserve, Kenya 85.281
25 **Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge,** Tanzania 84.694
26 **Serengeti Safari Camp,** Tanzania 83.399
27 **Sossusvlei Lodge,** Namib Desert, Namibia 83.151
28 **Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge,** Tanzania 83.086
29 **Serena Mountain Lodge,** Mount Kenya, Kenya 82.826
30 **Four Seasons Resort Marrakech** 82.106

The Middle East
TOP 5

1 **One&Only The Palm,** Dubai 96.875
2 **Emirates Palace,** Abu Dhabi 90.290
3 **Dan Eilat Red Sea Hotel,** Israel 88.593
4 **Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea,** Jordan 88.010
5 **Qasr al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara,** Al Gharbia, U.A.E. 86.905

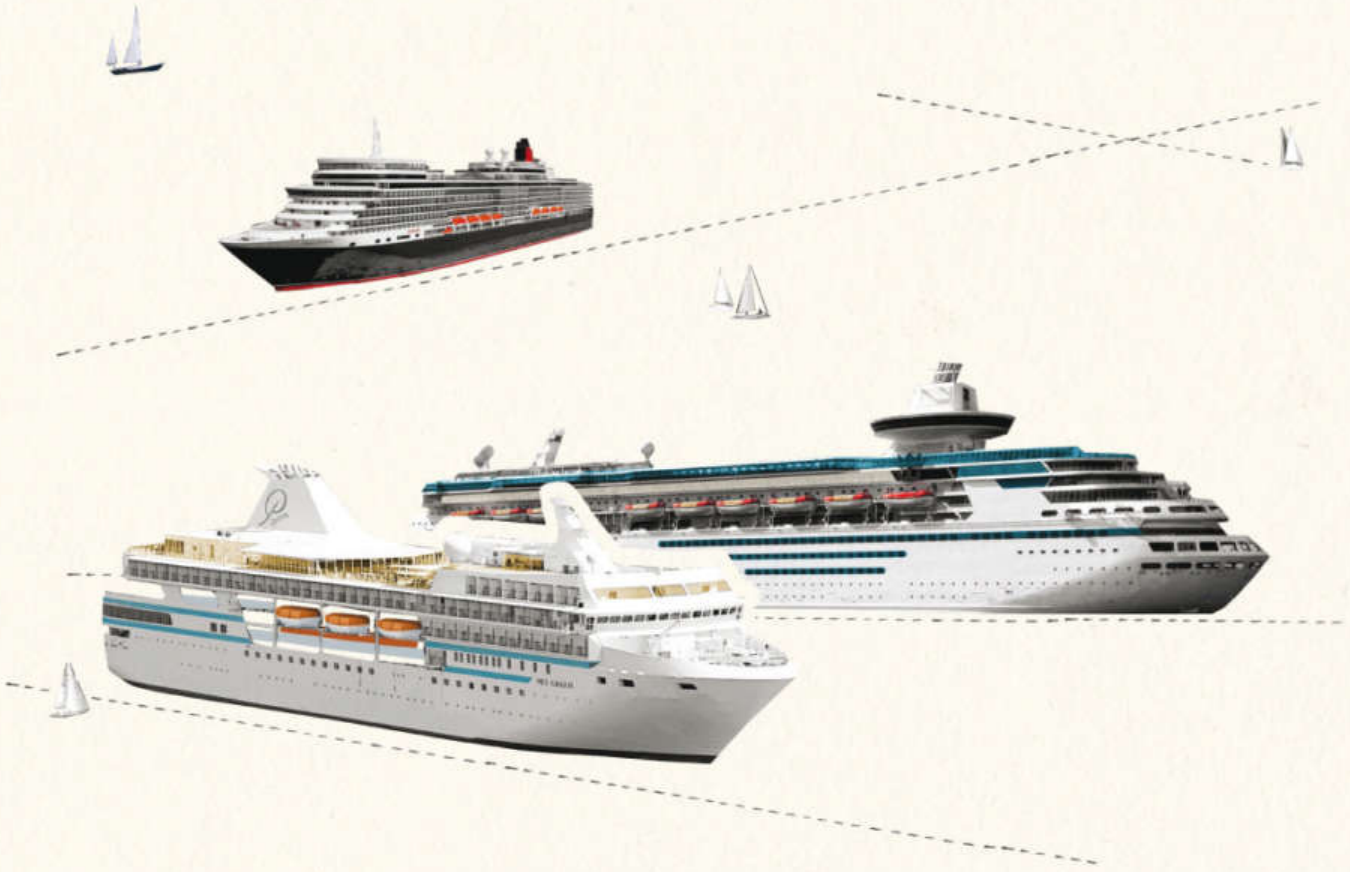
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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Cruise Lines



Large Ships
(MORE THAN 2,000 PASSENGERS)

1 **Disney** 90.563
2 **Cunard** 89.411
3 **Princess** 84.463
4 **Norwegian Cruise Line** 83.023
5 **Royal Caribbean International** 82.374
6 **Celebrity** 81.729

Medium Ships
(500 TO 2,000 PASSENGERS)

1 **Crystal Cruises** 90.546
2 **Disney** 89.398
3 **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** 86.674
4 **Princess** 84.052
5 **Oceania Cruises** 82.475
6 **Azamara Club Cruises** 81.722
7 **Holland America Line** 81.438

35

MPH

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Small Ships
(FEWER THAN 500 PASSENGERS)

1 **Seabourn Cruise Line** 89.214
2 **Paul Gauguin Cruises** 89.211
3 **Windstar Cruises** 88.715
4 **SeaDream Yacht Club** 85.756
5 **Silversea** 84.368
6 **Lindblad Expeditions–National Geographic** 82.760

River Ships

1 **Grand Circle Cruise Line** 92.572
2 **Viking River Cruises** 91.559
3 **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises** 91.072
4 **Tauck** 90.048
5 **Vantage** 89.210
6 **American Queen Steamboat Co.** 85.770
7 **AmaWaterways** 85.570
8 **Avalon Waterways** 84.649

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Arzobispado de Lima

RISING ABOVE A COASTLINE OF CRUMBLING CLIFFS, PERU'S capital is a uniquely complex city that's only beginning to find its stride. Edgy modern art galleries stand alongside pre-Columbian temples. Perfect Pacific waves break directly below world-class restaurants boasting innovative Peruvian fusion fare. Cultural traditions dating back a millennium seep into the thriving nightclub scene and pulsing Afro-tropical beats. Nibble away at this intriguing, multi-layered metropolis and savor all Peru has to offer.


Lomo Saltado

Peru's rich past has effervesced into one of the most diverse cultures—and lauded cuisines—on the planet. Inspired by its Incan, European, Asian, and African roots, Lima is the gastronomic epicenter of Latin America.

The ceviche is sublime. Even a simple *acevichado*, the Peruvian equivalent of a California roll, makes a distinct statement. Try the velvety *aji de gallina* stew with *choclo*, a white Andean corn with dime-size kernels. Peruvian-Chinese notes can be tasted in *lomo saltado*, a peppery beef stir-fry splashed with soy sauce. Wash it down with an impeccable Pisco Sour and head over to the romantic Barranco district to browse the local boutiques, bohemian cafés, and stately colonial architecture. Finish off the day with another mind-boggling meal, like the Creole-influenced *escabeche criollo*, then stroll through bustling Miraflores and along the surfer-riddled Costa Verde at sunset. You'll agree that Lima's ceviche isn't the only thing that's sublime.

INSPIRED BY ITS INCAN, EUROPEAN, ASIAN, AND AFRICAN ROOTS, LIMA IS THE GASTRONOMIC EPICENTER OF LATIN AMERICA.

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Costa Verde, Miraflores

POST

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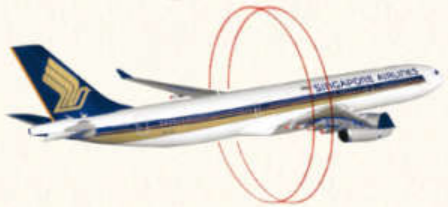


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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS







Airlines & Airports

Sixty percent of readers who traveled on Singapore Airlines flew in economy class. Thirty percent found a little more legroom in business class, and a lucky ten percent really laid back in first class.

Domestic
TOP 5 AIRLINES

1 **Virgin America** 81.726
2 **JetBlue Airways** 75.433
3 **Hawaiian Airlines** 72.583
4 **Southwest Airlines** 70.086
5 **Alaska Airlines** 69.453

Rest of the World
TOP 20 AIRLINES

1 **Singapore Airlines** 85.943
2 **Emirates** 84.174
3 **Qatar Airways** 81.195
4 **Virgin Atlantic** 80.235
5 **Etihad Airways** 79.876
6 **JAL (Japan Airlines)** 79.707
7 **Korean Air** 79.499
8 **Air New Zealand** 78.419
9 **Porter Airlines** 78.400
10 **Cathay Pacific** 78.376
11 **ANA (All Nippon Airways)** 78.048
12 **Thai** 77.027
13 **EVA Air** 76.892
14 **Asiana Airlines** 76.733
15 **Qantas** 75.799
16 **Turkish Airlines** 74.792
17 **Swiss** 74.736
18 **El Al** 74.030
19 **Virgin Australia** 73.763
20 **Finnair** 71.592

Domestic
TOP 10 AIRPORTS

1 **Indianapolis (IND)** 76.891
2 **Portland (PDX),** Ore. 75.737
3 **Providence (PVD),** R.I. 74.801
4 **Tampa (TPA)** 74.337
5 **Palm Beach (PBI)** 73.333
6 **Austin (AUS)** 72.426
7 **Portland (PWM),** Me. 72.207
8 **Salt Lake City (SLC)** 72.039
9 **Nashville (BNA)** 71.930
10 **Long Beach (LGB)** 71.835

Rest of the World
TOP 10 AIRPORTS

1 **Singapore (SIN)** 83.356
2 **Dubai (DXB)** 77.889
3 **Hong Kong (HKG)** 75.735
4 **Tel Aviv (TLV)** 73.414
5 **Seoul-Incheon (ICN)** 72.355
6 **Tokyo Haneda (HND)** 71.628
7 **Doha (DOH)** 71.374
8 **Abu Dhabi (AUH)** 70.948
9 **Zurich (ZRH)** 70.601
10 **Vancouver (YVR)** 70.227

For more on this year's Readers' Choice Awards, check out cntraveler.com/rca.

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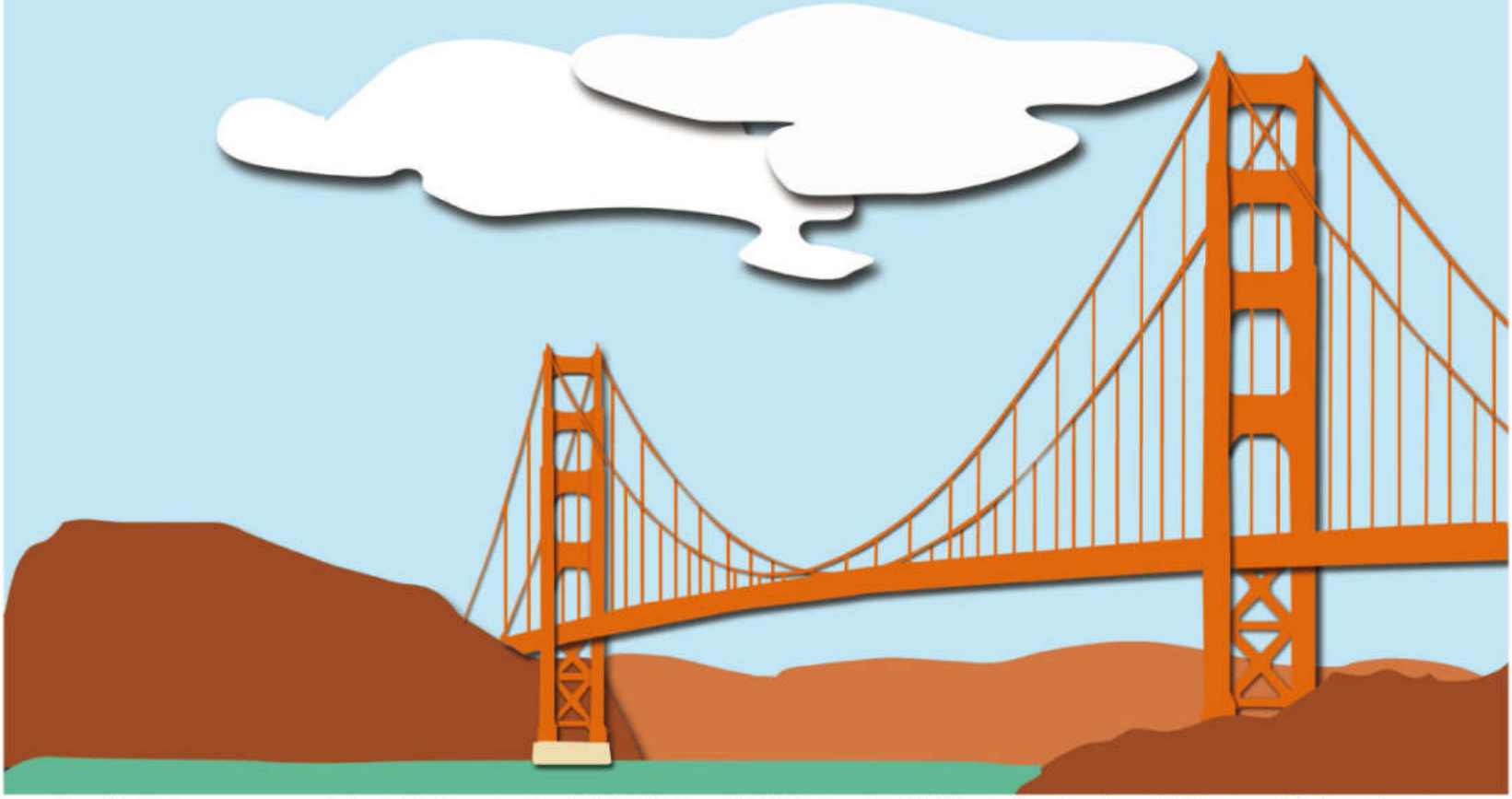
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FINDING THE

R H Y



T H M



WHY WE KEEP COMING BACK TO TRANCOSO

By
HANYA YANAGIHARA

Photographs by
ADRIAN GAUT





There's something wrong here, you think the first time you see Trancoso's Quadrado. Here it is, noontime, the sky above you white with sun, and you're standing in the main square of this little sixteenth-century town, a five-acre rectangle of lawn marked at the far end by a simple church made of coral blocks and whale bones. On either side of you are little adobe houses, former fishermen's cottages, each painted the truer-than-true colors of a rain forest jungle—heliconia red, toucan-beak orange, tree frog green, bromeliad pink—their facades nearly obscured by stalks of banana trees and clumps of torch ginger. And yet there's not a soul in sight. The houses' white shutters are closed. No one sits on the benches and tables that clutter the grass outside many of the houses; no one plays soccer on the little pitch by the church; there's nowhere to eat, no one to see. It feels as if the entire town of 9,900 people has taken off, en masse, for a party to which you've not been invited—because why else, then, would you leave someplace so beautiful?

And then you take a ten-minute stroll, turning right onto the dirt path just before the church and crossing a short, slatted-wood bridge that cuts through a mangrove swamp, and you realize that there is in fact a good reason to leave someplace beautiful, and that's if you can go somewhere *more* beautiful: Trancoso's beach, a nearly 15-mile stretch of sand the color of unpolished gold, facing water so clear that even when it's at chin height you can still look down and see your toes. Like many perfect beach towns, Trancoso has a sort of out-of-time quality, largely because time itself has no meaning here. When the sun is up, you go to the beach. You spend all day there, splashing in the water, baking on





Previous page: Espelho Beach, just south of Trancoso, Brazil. **This page, from far left:** An open-air bathroom at Uxua Casa Hotel; a view into a traditional home on Trancoso's Quadrado; a seating area near the pool at Uxua; looking down on Espelho Beach.

the sand. And when the sky begins to turn the color of those heliconia-red houses, you heave yourself to your feet and walk back uphill, where you discover that—surprise!—in your absence, the Quadrado has come alive, the doors flung open, the tables set with white china, the paper lanterns which lace through the monkeypod trees switched on, and that the party has migrated from the beach to the grass and, despite what you feared, you've been invited after all.

I FIRST WENT to Trancoso in 2009. It was my first trip to Brazil, and I had added it as a sort of afterthought, a semi-spontaneous 700-mile detour north as I traveled from Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo. The town occupies a speck of coast in Bahia, the country's fourth most populous state and one of the earliest to be settled by the sixteenth-century Portuguese explorers who went on to define modern Brazil. It is something of an anomaly in vast, jungly Bahia, remarkable even in this wildly diverse country for its ethnic jambalaya, its air of perpetual and inescapable languor, and its relative wealth.

But if Trancoso is distinct, it is also somehow familiar, and on that initial visit, it felt oddly like someplace I'd been before. It took me a day or so to realize that it wasn't so much the town's appearance or physical dimensions that were recognizable but rather its particular blend of glamour and lassitude, preening and insouciance, money and a collective decision to pretend money doesn't matter at all, that I remembered from other beach towns I had visited and loved for those very contradictory qualities: Tulum, Hana, José Ignacio. Like them, Trancoso is defined by a carefully cultivated (and convincing) sense of mutually sustained fantasy. It's a town that's been anointed by the fashion set as somewhere they can see everyone they know while also imagining that here, finally, is a place where no one cares who you are. It's a town where the vastly rich can pretend that no one understands just how rich they are. It's a town where you can buy a fresh-made

Right: The colorful entrance to Uxua.

WHEN TO GO

Unless you're seeking a wild party scene—and have a hotel booked months in advance—avoid Trancoso in the weeks around Christmas and New Year's. February through April are ideal for a slightly quieter time with still-great weather.

GETTING THERE

Fly direct from the U.S. to São Paulo, Rio, or Salvador (Bahia's capital); all three offer connections to Porto Seguro, where you can rent a car or arrange a transfer through your hotel for the one-hour drive to Trancoso. For help planning all this, or to build Trancoso into a longer trip around Bahia, consider the Brazil travel specialists at Matueté, who are experts in the region (matuete.com).

STAY

Etnia Pousada & Boutique
This stylishly outfitted seven-bungalow, two-villa hotel is tucked in a tranquil forest just a short walk from the Quadrado (etniabrasil.com.br; from $134).

Uxua Casa Hotel and Spa
Eleven chic, colorful free-standing *casas* ranging from one to three suites (uxua casahotel.com; from $650).

EAT & DRINK

El Gordo
A Quadrado institution serving fresh seafood and sushi (and dozens of different *cachaças*) on sun-drenched terraces overlooking the sea (55-73-3668-2041).

Monkey Bar
A jungle-shrouded hideaway with some of the better drinks in town (monkeyhouse trancoso.com).

Restaurante da Sylvinha
A languorous seaside lunch at this rustic, open-walled restaurant is worth the hour drive from Trancoso—that, and the golden sands of Espelho, the region's most beautiful beach. Reservations essential (55-73-9985-4157).



guava- and coconut-stuffed tapioca crêpe from a dilapidated wooden stall at the end of the Quadrado (cost: one *real*) and follow it with a blindingly strong Negroni back at your hotel (cost: 20 *reals*), and in your mind, this is what you'd be eating every day. Which is to say: This is a fantasy of not just a vacation town but of a vacation itself. Here, the artifice is all part of the fun of escape.

But why Trancoso? Brazil, after all, has a 7,500-mile coastline from top to bottom, which means there are literally thousands of pretty beaches, thousands of potentially pretty villages. Why, then, has Trancoso become the sort of place that, from Christmas to Easter, sees its population swell as Paulistas and Cariocans—each of them possessing that signature tan, that signature litheness, which seem to be the wealthy Brazilian's birthright—buzz into town in their private helicopters? Why does fashion heiress Georgina Brandolini d'Adda have a house here? Why has Anderson Cooper bought a plot of land right on the Quadrado? Why, during Brazil's mild winters, does Instagram fill with images of the little white São João Batista Church? How, in other words, did Trancoso become Trancoso?

"It was because of the hippies," Wilbert Das told me on my most recent visit. The former creative director of Diesel now owns Uxua Casa Hotel and Spa, occupying a group of 11 refurbished houses on the Quadrado. "They came to Trancoso in the late seventies and ended up reviving it." When the first tourists arrived, Das said, the town was on the edge of extinction: The geography that makes Trancoso so desirable today—a relatively small bay hemmed in by tropical forest so dense that it made the area impassable, unsuited to ever becoming a real port city—also isolated it. "It was closed off for 500 years," he said. "In 1978, there were only 50 families left here. Electricity didn't even arrive until 1982. The twentysomething generation was having to leave to look for work."

"But then the first hippies arrived," added Das's business partner, Bob Shevlin. "They were Swiss, Argentinian, Russian, Italian, French, Brazilian. They saw and appreciated the town for what it was, and they made the people who live here appreciate it, too. It was the hippies who blocked the Quadrado to all traffic; they were the ones who saw something to preserve. There's this cliché that tourism cheapens a place, but here, tourism saved it."

Of course, those hippies are now rich. Later, as I walked down the packed-earth path to the beach, I passed a property—at least four houses deep and hidden from view by a tall wooden fence—that Das (who, though a relatively recent arrival, is today something of the unofficial town mayor) told me was bought "for nothing" by one of the early hippie settlers in the '70s. And if the hippies—now in their sixties, cheerful and leathery from decades of paradisal living—are responsible for the town's current incarnation, they've also insured that Trancoso will never go the way of Waikiki or Punta del Este, once-intimate beach communities that today are dominated by condos and overrun by package tours. Although Trancoso has a Relais & Châteaux property and there is talk of a much-delayed beachfront resort being developed by the South American hotel group Fasano, most of its hotels are independently owned B&Bs of varying levels of quality and chic within walking distance of the beach. "It's just gotten too expensive for

MAP BY HAISAM HUSSEIN







LIKE MANY PERFECT BEACH TOWNS, TRANCOSO HAS A SORT OF OUT-OF-TIME QUALITY, LARGELY BECAUSE TIME ITSELF HAS NO MEANING HERE. WHEN THE SUN IS UP, YOU GO TO THE BEACH.

Left: Classic Brazilian dishes with an Asian twist at Restaurante da Sylvinha.
This page: Window into the bar at Uxua.





developers to build here," said Shevlin. "Each of our neighbors—each of those bright-colored houses—is worth millions of dollars in land alone. A large corporation would never recoup its investment, which means Trancoso will never get bigger than it is." Add to this strict zoning laws which specify that no structure can be built higher than two stories and you have, he says, a place which has saved itself through its own desirability.

Then there's the alchemy of the town itself, which both men said would vanish were it to become something larger. "The locals and the hippies and artists have always gotten along," said Das. "They created their own aesthetic and made this their paradise; the culture of one contaminated the other. Let's face it, the best places on earth were founded by hippies and artists."

IT is also hippies and artists who—unfairly or not—have a reputation for being masters of indolence, and in Trancoso, it's alarmingly easy to honor their legacy by taking the art of *dolce far niente* to new heights. I'm not exactly the most motivated of people to begin with, but after two days at Uxua, I was moving more slowly, and less frequently, than the giant silvery sloth that occasionally appears on the hotel's property.

Days began with one of the hotel's tropical-island-fantasy breakfasts: a variety of fresh-squeezed juices so thick and pulpy that the contents of each pitcher (guava, passion fruit, and mango one day; papaya, watermelon, lime, and banana the next) had to be stirred with a long hardwood stick before pouring; *pão de queijo* (little blobs of chewy, yielding dough baked with cheese, and—unfortunately—just the right size for popping, whole, into the mouth); empanadas stuffed with chocolate or fresh coconut cream; and, best of all, the

For more photographs of Trancoso, visit cntraveler.com/brazil.

day's cake (coconut glazed white with citrus icing; a dense, vanilla-scented chocolate Bundt; a lime-and-orange loaf with a biting, tart crust). After breakfast—at which I was always the only one (my fellow guests, most of them the aforementioned rich Brazilians, as well as Italians and French, didn't seem to get up until noon)—I walked down to the beach, where Uxua has a bar made from an old wooden fisherman's boat. I drank. I read my book. I swam, the water beneath me the same limpid pale-blue as the sky, the horizon line that divided the two blurring so completely that at times it felt as if I were suspended in some imaginary state halfway between the water and the air (though that could also have been the drunkenness). When the light began to dim—the sunsets in Trancoso, as in all equatorial locations, are brilliant but brief—I stumbled back up to the just-rousing town, into the shower, and then out onto the green again to find the crêpe vendor. I couldn't remember the last time I'd done less—or the last time I'd done things less familiar, things I would never have done back home in New York. Day drinking. Waving at strangers. Eating cake for breakfast. On my second to last day, I took a drive with Das down a bumpy dirt road to what I'd remembered—accurately—as the most beautiful beach in the world: Praia do Espelho, or Mirror Beach, so named because at low tide, the water seems to pleat back from the shore, and the sand becomes a series of shallow tide pools, so still and clear and perfectly reflective that for a moment you think you might be having a vision. After splashing around for a while, we waded across one of the estuaries to Restaurante da Sylvinha, a cheery fish shack that serves the freshest catch and pleasantly dizzying drinks made with tropical fruit and (lots of) icy vodka.

That sense of improbability the town provoked made me realize then that maybe the Trancosan fantasy of no one caring who you are or how much money you have wasn't such a fantasy after all. This seems a strange thing to say in Brazil. Even in an increasingly inequitable world, the country's economic gap is severe: The richest one percent of the population, collectively, have as much money as the poorest 50 percent; there is no avoiding the country's poverty.



From far left: Dining and drinking options beckon en route to the main beach; Uxua's beach bar; local musicians jamming in town.

But there was a funny kind of democracy at work here as well, something as ephemeral as it was undeniable. As someone who grew up in a well-visited beach town—Honolulu—I'm always skeptical of claims that locals and tourists mix seamlessly, and with mutual respect. But it really did seem to be the case in Trancoso: There was none of the cultural apartheid I felt when, as a child, I knew that certain beaches, certain stores, certain restaurants, were off-limits to me—they were for the tourists, and I was a local. On Trancoso's beach, however, I watched as women I knew were rich—from their accessories, their clothes, their whiteness—talked, casually and at length, with the vendors (mostly black) who were strolling the sand, selling homemade coconut oil, foot massages, and trinkets. Between them there was a sense of, if not equality, then at least community, of belonging, of everyone's fundamental right to the beach itself. And indeed, once you were in the water, you couldn't tell who was rich and who was poor: We were a series of bobbing heads, lolling there like seals—the sea belonged to us all. I couldn't imagine a scene like this in the Hamptons, or anywhere else, really. But here in Trancoso, I found it. ◆

WINDSORS. ROCKEFELLERS. COCO AND KARL. THE FAMOUSLY DISCREET HOUSE OF GOYARD OPENS ITS HISTORIC ARCHIVES, GIVING US A PEEK AT ITS BOLDFACE CUSTOMER LIST—AND THE THINGS THEY MIGHT HAVE CARRIED.

If These Trunks



Could Talk



By
VÉRONIQUE HYLAND

Photographs by
HENRY LEUTWYLER

Previous page: Luggage that was commissioned by Universal Studios for Marilyn Monroe in the 1950s; cards from Goyard's customer files. **This page, from left:** Detail of vintage brass hardware; the everything-in-its-place trunk designed for Alain Ducasse; tools of the trade at the Goyard *marquage* studio in Carcassonne.

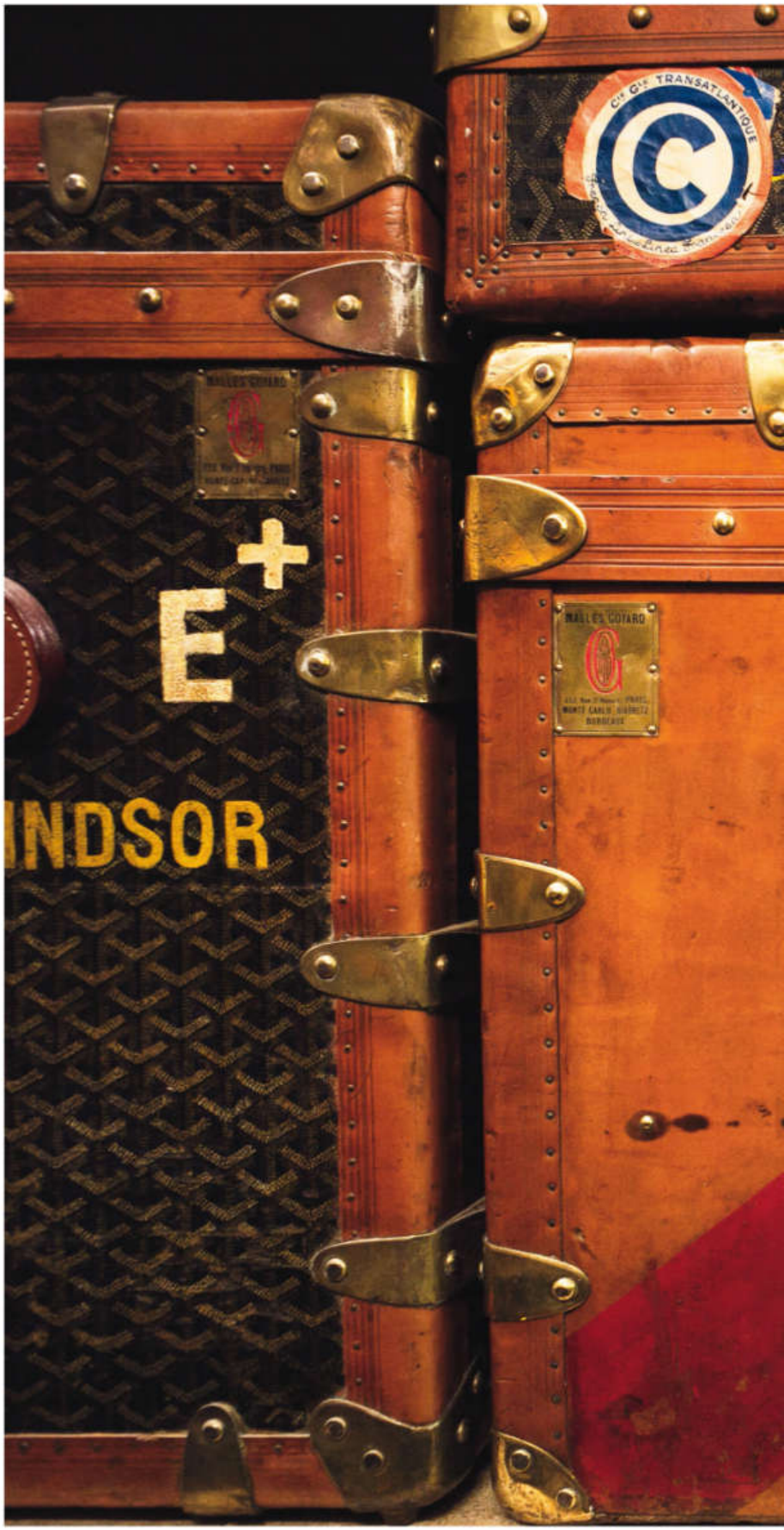




You won't find any eye-catching logos or bling. As with all things, Goyard does luxury a little differently, in its own quiet way. After more than a century and a half in business, the Parisian *malletier* is the equivalent of a whisper in a world of shouts. Its workshop in Carcassonne, the tucked-away village in the southwest of France, is more like a laboratory: The paint Goyard mixes to emblazon Goyardine, the proprietary coated cloth used to make all of its bags, has been a top-secret recipe since 1853. It doesn't advertise, and it definitely doesn't sell online—you'll have to seek out Goyard in a handful of storied emporiums or in its Paris flagship. ¶ It's precisely that exclusivity which appeals to the brand's collectors, who covet the highly customized pieces. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle kept his writing materials in a Goyard trunk, which held a typewriter and foldout desk; Alain Ducasse uses his to store his cutlery. Josephine Baker had a custom Goyard carrier for her cheetah; Choupette, Karl


CHINE
VJ
A.S
KOREA
G.F
USA
JM

Right: Trunks in the company's private storage rooms bear names like Cartier and Windsor and stamps of trips once taken.



Lagerfeld's beloved and deliciously spoiled cat, makes her world travels in a Goyard case. A few other clients you may have heard of: the Windsors, the Grimaldis, the Romanovs, the Rockefellers, Coco Chanel, Jeanne Moreau, and Lauren Bacall, whose extensive collection was recently auctioned at Bonhams.

Goyard's doorstop-size black book of clients is what enchants Barneys New York creative ambassador Simon Doonan (known for sporting a cross-body messenger bag with his initials in bright paint). "Who *doesn't* want to have the same luggage as Josephine Baker?" he asks. For PR guru Lola Rykiel, that legacy is a personal affair—her grandmother Sonia's bespoke luggage sets were a gateway drug. "It was one of the things that I had to wait to be 21 to own," she says. "Now I treasure my Goyard. It's timeless, mysterious, and makes me feel a bit like Catherine Deneuve." (Yes, another Goyard customer.)

Inevitably, these creations keep their chic longer than any fleeting trend. On a long-ago trip to Paris, *Vogue* contributing fashion editor Lynn Yaeger bought a monogrammed red bag that she says still "wears like iron." The rapper Tyga is one of many to praise the brand in his lyrics (see also: Kanye West, A$AP Rocky): "Goyard is the leather goods equivalent of a super-limited sports car," he says, adding, "a McLaren Stirling Moss edition, to be exact. The ultimate in luxury and quality." And, just like a classic car, it looks better with a little mileage. ◆


JACQUES CART
CIE G
S/S LIBERTÉ
TRANSATLANTIQUE
de
PARIS-Est
61
Paris, gare de l'Est
N. YORK
ITALIA
BAGAGLIO DI 1.ª CLASSE
Collo N.°
278
DOUANE
NEW YORK


Up,
Up



& Away

A SMALL BAND OF MOUNTAINEERS ARE TRANSFORMING ICELAND'S DOWN-ON-ITS-LUCK NORTHERN SHORE INTO NEXT WINTER'S HOTTEST SKI DESTINATION. *TOM ROBBINS* SETS OUT IN SEARCH OF FRESH TRACKS.

Photographs by CHRISTOPHER STURMAN



In the far north of Iceland, the barren coastline gathers into a stubby finger that points toward the North Pole. Some 50 miles long, it's studded with snowy mountains and ringed by black volcanic beaches, and in mid-winter the sun doesn't rise for more than two months. It would be mysterious, like something from Tolkien, even without the name Tröllaskagi (translation: Troll Peninsula). Near its very tip—accessible only by long, narrow tunnels that burrow beneath the mountains—is a lonely little fishing town, Siglufjörður, where, as improbable as it might seem, I was heading for a ski holiday.

Flying into Reykjavík and then continuing in a small turboprop 150 miles northeast to Akureyri, I picked up a rental car and drove north. By the time I reached the seven-mile-long tunnel that links Siglufjörður to the rest of the peninsula, it was dark and snow lay thick on the ground. It was May and I had left warm and sunny London that morning; now I found myself inside a snow globe at the edge of the Arctic.

Though it could scarcely be more isolated, Siglufjörður was once Iceland's boomtown. For the first half of the last century, it was the world capital of the herring industry, the "Klondike of the North," with five dance halls, two daily newspapers, and a carnival spirit thanks to the thousands of "herring girls" who would come from farms and villages across the country to process and pack fish every summer. In some years Sigló, as it's known for short, accounted for 45 percent of Iceland's total exports. It was even briefly the talk of New York City, when visitors to the 1939 World's Fair marveled at films showing huge vats of writhing silver fish being lifted by crane onto Sigló's docks.

Then the great party came to a sudden end. The overfished herring stocks disappeared in 1969, and Sigló crashed. With packing plant work scarce, the herring girls stayed home, and locals began to drift away. The population, once as large as 12,000, dwindled to about 1,200. Fish factories were abandoned. Docks crumbled into the sea. Today, the streets are so silent that you can easily walk for blocks and hear only the crunch of snow and the wail of seagulls. The biggest attraction is the Herring Era Museum, where visitors can learn the finer points of fish oil extraction.

Previous page: The author makes a first descent of Heidi's Run, outside Siglufjörður, while guides from Eleven Experience watch from the clifftops. **Above:** Along Iceland's Highway 1.



THOUGH THE SECRET IS GETTING OUT, VISITOR NUMBERS REMAIN LOW. FEWER SKIERS COME TO THE TROLL PENINSULA IN A YEAR THAN VISIT VAIL OR VAL D'ISÈRE IN A WEEKEND.

And yet against these odds, Sigló is showing glimmers of a new gold rush. Bars and cafés once frequented only by fishermen, locals told me, now draw Canadian mountain guides, Wall Street bankers, and wealthy Londoners, as this hard-luck town—marooned on Europe's farthest fringe—has suddenly found itself the hottest ticket in skiing.

A decade ago, few outside Iceland had ever heard of the Troll Peninsula, let alone skied there. But in 2008, an enterprising local mountain guide named Jökull Bergmann chartered a helicopter and invited a group of clients to try Iceland's first heli-ski trip. They went home with tales of wild first descents, an increasingly rare privilege that affords pioneers the right to name their run, according to a convention shared by skiers and mountaineers worldwide.

Word soon spread through the tight-knit ski community, and more adventurers headed north. This season will see three separate heli-ski companies operating—more than in the whole of Colorado—from at least four bases on the peninsula.



I had arranged my visit with Eleven Experience, a small but no-expense-spared travel company owned by Chad Pike, the American vice chairman of the investment group Blackstone Europe. Eleven's growing portfolio of super-luxe properties includes a colonial beach house in the Bahamas, a country estate in Wiltshire, England, and an eighteenth-century canal house in Amsterdam. With a couple of other guests, I stayed at Eleven's temporary base, a simple inn in Sigló, while Pike's latest and most implausible acquisition was taking shape in an empty valley to the west of town: By the 2016 season, Deplar Farm will be the most lavish lodge ever seen in northern Iceland, complete with an indoor/outdoor swimming pool, a spa with six treatment rooms, a theater, a dozen suites, and heli-skiing from the door. That someone like Pike, who could have easily chosen to set up in Aspen, Courchevel, or St. Moritz, chose humble Sigló instead hints at the riches that lie hidden in the mountains all around.

"This place is unique," said Mike Barney, our lead guide, preparing us for the coming days of skiing. Charming and soft-spoken, the 36-year-old has years of experience as a heli-ski guide in Alaska, Chile, and Colorado, but he's particularly excited by what he has been finding in Iceland. "You get these long runs, sometimes right down to the shore. The snowpack is really stable, the season goes into June—when you can heli-ski until late at night—and there's just so much to explore. From the window at Deplar we can look out and see 30 possible landing spots."

We drove out to Sigló's abandoned airport, which Eleven has co-opted as a makeshift helicopter base. First came briefings about the A-Star aircraft, about the safety equipment we would carry in our rucksacks, about using transceivers in the event of an avalanche. Then, finally, it was time to fly.





Left: Cottages at Klængshóll Lodge. **This page, from top:** Jökull Bergmann, the founder of Arctic Heli Skiing and one of the fathers of expedition skiing in Iceland, at Klængshóll Lodge; a pool open to the public along the sea in Hofsós, on the western shore of the Troll Peninsula.

The helicopter carried four of us up over the roofs of the wooden houses, the church, the hulks of fishing boats. We climbed quickly and smoothly, tracing the contours of Hafnarfjall, the mountain that looms over the town, while geese flew in formation far below. Suddenly, we crested the ridge and the horizon unfurled before us: Countless peaks and valleys, smothered in white, stretched into the distance, the blue of the open Arctic Ocean just visible beyond.

After four or five minutes, the helicopter touched down on a broad summit and we clambered out and crouched on the ground. The rotors furiously beat the air above our heads while Barney unloaded the skis; then the pilot lifted off and dropped away into the valley, the frenzied noise replaced by silence.

COUNTLESS PEAKS AND VALLEYS, SMOTHERED IN WHITE, STRETCHED INTO THE DISTANCE, THE BLUE OF THE OPEN ARCTIC OCEAN JUST VISIBLE BEYOND.



Eleven Experience guides scouting a line through the powder.



Though it was long after the end of the ski season in both the Alps and the Rockies, the wide-open slope below us was covered in a foot of fresh powder. One by one we pushed off, choosing our own lines, slicing through the downy-soft snow in broad, fast turns, then regrouping hundreds of yards below, grinning and breathing hard, ready for a helicopter pickup to do it all again.

The experience is both comfortably familiar and wonderfully alien. Imagine a top-to-bottom run at your favorite ski resort. Now strip away the ski lifts, the restaurants, the patrol huts, the trail markers, the boundary ropes, and—most important—all the other skiers. Add just the faintest scent of sea air and the occasional purple smudge of wild blueberries on the snow—and the fact that your friends back home haven't yet tackled these peaks. And though the secret is getting out, visitor numbers remain surprisingly low. Even now, fewer skiers come to the Troll Peninsula in a year than visit Vail or Val d'Isère in a weekend.

That any of this has happened at all is largely thanks to Bergmann, whom I met one evening after driving to the former sheep farm 25 miles south of Sigló where he grew up. The 39-year-old native Icelander, whose full name literally means Glacier Mountain Man, worked as a shepherd here as a boy before moving to Chamonix to start a new life as a mountain guide. He returned to Iceland in 2001, at the age of 25, to help care for his dying grandfather. A few days after the funeral, Bergmann began packing for his return to Chamonix but went out for a last climb before leaving for the Alps.

That decision would change his life. In the mountains above Klængshóll, he was scaling a frozen waterfall when a freak avalanche swept him over a cliff and sent him tumbling more than a thousand feet, breaking three vertebrae in his neck and a dozen other bones. Doctors warned that he might spend the rest of his life trying to recover.

"While I was flat on my back for months, I had a lot of time to think," Bergmann said, sitting in the cozy kitchen of the farmhouse, recounting the bleak details. "I began to really see the potential here. I decided then that I wasn't going back to France."

After a six-month struggle back to health, he went to Canada, learned all he could about the heli-ski business, from operations to marketing, completed his international guiding qualifications, and then returned to set up Arctic Heli Skiing in 2008. It's still based at the family farm. Meals are eaten together around the kitchen table; a bookcase in the lounge is carved with the date 1921, the year Bergmann's great-grandfather built it. But the business has grown every year, with four new guest cabins, a yoga studio, and even an après-ski lounge in an old barn within the last four years. This season, Arctic Heli Skiing will also fly from a second lodge, a newly converted farmhouse near Dalvik, another of the Troll Peninsula's coastal towns. Despite such expansion, there's little risk of the virgin snow and first descents running out. "I did three of them last week," Bergmann said. "The possibilities here are endless."

My own opportunity came on my third and final day. Our group flew up a hanging valley close to Deplar and landed at its head, above a band of cliffs. We peered over the edge, scanning the snow for the best line. Then, without ceremony, Barney said, "See you at the bottom," and waved me on.

It was steep and icy at first, with a narrow choke between some rocks, and then opened out onto a wide slope, all the more glorious for never having been skied before. Waves of cold powder billowed up into my face at every turn, and I went faster and faster until the sensation was somewhere between falling and flying, a delicious mania I never wanted to end.

Back home in London the following week, I took my two-year-old daughter, Heidi, to the park. It was hot, and as I pushed the stroller, my mind began to wander back to that sparkling strip of white, stuck up there in the snow globe. When my daughter is older, I'll tell her how it came to have her name. ◆

Tom Robbins is travel editor of the Financial Times.

Take This Trip

Your primer on northern Iceland's backcountry.

WHO CAN HELI-SKI

There are no beginner runs here, but the Troll Peninsula has gentle terrain suitable for intermediates who are comfortable with powder as well as steeps to challenge the more experienced set.

THE OUTFITTERS

Eleven Experience offers a three-night package starting at $10,000 per person, including equipment, guiding, and lodging (elevenexperience.com). **Arctic Heli Skiing** has a similarly all-inclusive four-night stay from $7,500 per person (arcticheliskiing.com).

WHEN TO GO

The heli-ski season runs from March through June. Peak season is May, when the conditions are excellent.

GETTING THERE

Icelandair flies direct from ten U.S. cities to Reykjavík. From there it's a 45-minute Air Iceland flight to Akureyri, 40 miles southeast of Sigló. Ski operators can arrange transfers, or travelers can rent a car from Avis or Hertz at Akureyri Airport.

ON THE MENU

Local specialties like wild goose and smoked puffin are surprisingly good; the daring can accept the classic gastro-challenge of *hákarl* (putrified shark) washed down with Brennivín (caraway-flavored schnapps).

AND FOR THE SKI AVERSE

If you're traveling with someone who's not interested in hitting the mountains, there are other things to do in Iceland—like bathing in hot springs, horseback riding, or hiking volcanoes.





Clockwise from top: Sigló's "famous" Herring Era Museum; the lonely road to Deplar Farm; Hvítserkur Rock, about 125 miles west of Sigló.





For more photos of the Icelandic frontier, visit cntraveler.com/iceland.



Out



Side





BEYOND ISTANBUL'S OLD CITY AND GRAND BAZAAR, THREE ONCE-NEGLECTED NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE REALIGNED THE CITY'S ORBIT—AND BECOME CENTERS OF TURKEY'S CUTTING EDGE.

By
SUZY HANSEN
Photographs by
GENTL & HYERS

In

Istanbul

is one of those cultural pilgrimage sites, like Delhi or Cairo, that can too easily be reduced to a checklist of must-sees: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, the Grand Bazaar. The sheer abundance of historical highlights means you could spend an entire vacation trailing tourists through the Old City. But having lived here for many years, I now give this advice to visiting friends: Pack the postcard stuff into a couple of days, then strike out beyond the historic center. ¶ For the last few years, travelers in the know have followed sophisticated locals to the neighborhoods of Galata and Karaköy—both north of the Old City, in the Beyoğlu district. Here, young Turks and foreigners have poured their creativity (and cash) into cavernous old buildings and waterfront warehouses and created thriving new hubs in which to shop, eat, and stay. Tumbling down steep hills to the Bosphorus, Beyoğlu had foundered after its zenith as a cosmopolitan, multicultural enclave at the turn of the twentieth century. (Then called Pera, it was a magnet for the likes of Hemingway, Trotsky, and Agatha Christie.) When I first moved to Istanbul, these streets were eerily empty at night. Then the revving economy of the 2000s began to inject new life into Galata, and stunning fin-de-siècle buildings were converted into luxury flats and designer ateliers. That rapid gentrification soon rolled down the slope to Karaköy—formerly a hangout for repair-shop workers and fishmongers—whose total transformation was all but assured with the 2004 opening of the Istanbul Modern art museum. Today, Karaköy and Galata are dynamic patchworks of time-worn architecture and leading-edge culture, with traces of gritty commercialism: a little scruffy, a bit self-consciously bohemian, and set against the Bosphorus's irrepressible glamour and beauty. ¶ From there it's an easy ferry ride to the Asian side, where Kadıköy—a long-established enclave for hipsters and leftists, lined with giant knotty trees and tiny churches—is also hitting the international radar. In a city as sprawling and tricky to navigate as Istanbul, it's a bonus that the three scene-iest neighborhoods are also among the most walkable. Here's how to spend a day and a night in each of them.







Previous page, from left: The Karabatak café in Karaköy occupies a rehabbed metal workshop; a view of Galata from the Süleymaniye mosque and (inset) one of its domes; Galata's Mavra Café Design Workshop. **This page, from left:** At Karabatak, the coffee menu is several pages long; the sixteenth-century Kılıç Ali Pasa hammam, now restored as a luxury bathhouse; the landmark Galata Tower, built by the Genoese in 1348.



For an interactive map of the neighborhoods featured, visit cntraveler.com/istanbul-outside-in.





From left: On Tellalzade Sokak in Kadıköy, an antiques store conjures fin-de-siecle Constantinople; Karaköy Lokantasi, a traditional *meyhane,* or Turkish tavern.

GALATA

STAY

Adahan Istanbul
General Yazgan Sokağı 14; adahan istanbul.com; from $112.

Georges Hotel Galata
Serdar-ı Ekrem Caddesi 24; georges.com; from $123.

Soho House Istanbul
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 56; sohohouseistanbul.com; from $217.

EAT

Furreyya Galata Balikcisi
Serdar-ı Ekrem Sokak 2/B; furreyya galata.com.

Galata Kiva
Galata Kulesi Sokak 4; galatakivahan.com.

Gram
İstiklal, Meşrutiyet Caddesi 107/D; grampera.com.

Mavra Café Design Workshop
Serdar-ı Ekrem Sokak 31/A.

Yeni Lokanta
Kumbaracı Yokuşu Sokak 66; lokantayeni.com.

SHOP

Archive
Serdar-ı Ekrem 19; archive.com.tr.

Gasia
Serdar-ı Ekrem Caddesi Doğan 30-B; gasiajewelry.com.

GALATA

Situated at the peak of Beyoğlu's hill and at the far end of Istanbul's main artery, Istiklal Caddesi, Galata was once a haven for Turkey's Jewish, Greek, Armenian, and Italian communities—but when most of these minorities fled after World War I, the area fell into disrepair. Turkey's recent economic boom brought a moneyed, artsy crowd, who fell for the carved-stone facades and high ceilings of Galata's Art Nouveau buildings—many of which have been restored to their former glory. Early on, the neighborhood attracted Turkish designers like Arzu Kaprol and the firm Autoban.

On Kumbaracı Yokuşu, the two-year-old nouvelle Turkish restaurant **Yeni Lokanta** has become a high-end neighborhood favorite; come for the grilled octopus, stay for the *kadayif* with smoked buffalo milk ice cream. Continue down Galip Dede Caddesi toward the fourteenth-century stone Galata Tower, and have a glass of Suvla blush wine at **Galata Kiva.** Nearby, Serdar-ı Ekrem Sokak is lined with furniture showrooms, concept stores, and clothing shops, many of them featuring local designers. Check out **Archive,** a modern design gallery selling stylish home accessories and sculptural furniture; the stunning couture jewelry shop **Gasia,** in business since the 1970s; and the elegant 20-room **Georges Hotel Galata,** whose rooftop French restaurant is one of Beyoğlu's most Instagram-ready spots for a drink and a sunset view. For a more down-home meal, try **Furreyya Galata Balikcisi,** a seafood joint with tasty fish wraps and fresh salads, or if fresh juices and hearty burgers are more your style, pop into the ultra-trendy **Mavra Café Design Workshop.**

On Meşrutiyet Caddesi, the new **Soho House Istanbul** is in the former U.S. consulate, a nineteenth-century Italianate palazzo. Here, you'll find Istanbul's well-heeled creative class lounging in rooms that seamlessly blend neoclassical grandeur, Turkish textiles, and comfy mid-century furnishings, or meeting over drinks at one of the hotel's two rooftop pools. For a quick lunch featuring a detour-worthy salad buffet (think artichokes with sour green plums, watermelon with cracked wheat), head to the tiny **Gram,** helmed by one of the city's most innovative young chefs, Didem Şenol. Above it is the gorgeously renovated **Adahan Istanbul,** where the expansive rooftop lounge, not the slightly austere rooms, is the draw.

KARAKÖY

All the way down Galata's hill, the neighborhood merges into Karaköy. Just five years ago, young Istanbullus might have come here only to pick up some baklava from the nearly 200-year-old bakery **Karaköy Güllüoglu,** or olives and cheese from the food hall **Namlı Gurme.** But Karaköy's maze of commercial streets behind the docks is increasingly dotted with watering holes, shops, and galleries. First, you'll run into the old Ottoman Bank building on Bankalar Caddesi, now the gallery/performance/research space Salt Galata, featuring emerging Turkish artists. Next door, another former bank has been transformed into **Vault Karaköy, The House Hotel,** whose light-filled mix of Gilded Age glamour and sleek furnishings is emblematic of Turkey's design-savvy House Hotel brand.

Farther on is the always reliable **Akin Balik,** where you'll want to grab an outdoor table on the leafy banks of the Golden Horn, order the fried calamari, and watch fishermen cast their lines off the nearby bridge.

Across the way at **Karaköy Gümrük,** Greek chef Stavriani Zervakakou's ever-changing menu has featured white grouper cooked in an egg-and-chicken broth or sage-seasoned smoked pork. Quirkily decorated by the restaurant's owner, a film art director, the building is one of Beyoğlu's many architectural standouts. Nearby, two restaurants attract Istanbul's culturati: **Karaköy Lokantasi** is a note-perfect *meyhane,* or traditional Turkish tavern; if you're craving a classic raki-meze-and-fish lunch or dinner, this is the place. Next door, the more refined **Lokanta Maya**—another Didem Şenol outpost—serves pan-Mediterranean dishes such as seafood linguine and caramelized sea bass. Behind the two restaurants, pedestrian streets are strung with ivy and twinkling lights, and buzzing cafés and bars spill out onto the cobblestones. Have a Viennese espresso at the **Karabatak** coffeehouse, in a former metal workshop playfully decorated with vintage café tables and Julius Meinl posters. Feeling more like a drink? Head across the street to the always-packed **Unter** (skip the uninspiring comfort food and come for cocktails). Not far from here, the sweets and tea shop **Dem** carries Chinese, Japanese, Indian, South African, and local teas; and the brilliant concept store **Mae Zae** sells bathing suits, furniture, and handmade jewelry (you'll know it by the golden retriever that's usually lounging outside). At the other end of the neighborhood, the stunning **Kılıç Ali Paşa** mosque rises next to a luxuriously restored sixteenth-century hammam that will reinvigorate tired legs. Wind up at the tiny, transporting restaurant **Naif**—imagine a café on a sun-bleached Aegean island. It's got some of the best salads in Istanbul, in particular the sorrel and avocado, and is another memorable spot for people-watching.

KARAKÖY

STAY

Vault Karaköy, The House Hotel
Bankalar Caddesi 5; thehousehotel.com; from $145.

EAT

Akin Balik
Fermeneciler Caddesi ali Yazıcı Sokak Gümrük Han D:10; akinbalik.com.

Dem
Hoca Tahsin Sokak 17; dem-istanbul.com.

Karabatak
Karaali Kaptan Sokak 7; karabatak karakoy.com.

Karaköy Gümrük
Gümrük Sokak 4; karakoygumruk.com.tr.

Karaköy Lokantasi
Kemankeş Caddesi 37/A; karakoylokantasi.com.

Lokanta Maya
Kemankeş Caddesi 35; lokantamaya.com.

Naif
Mumhane Caddesi 52; naifistanbul.com.

Unter
Karaali Kaptan Sokak 4; unter.com.tr.

SHOP

Karaköy Güllüoğlu
Rıhtım Caddesi Katlı Otopark Altı 3-4; karakoy gulluoglu.com.tr.

Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamami
Hamam Sokak 1; kilicali pasahamami.com.

Mae Zae
Hoca Tahsin Sokak 16A; maezae.com.

Namlı Gurme
Caddesi Katotopark Alti 1/1; namligida.com.tr.

KADIKÖY

Step off the boat onto the shores of Kadıköy—across the river on the Asian side—and you'll swear you've been delivered to some hip Western enclave like East London. So distinct is this neighborhood's laid-back spirit that many residents call themselves Kadıköylu rather than Istanbullus. Though Kadıköy is certainly welcoming to both families and singles, its biggest lure is its restaurants and bar scene. For the latter, avoid Barlar Sokak, overflowing with raucous twentysomethings, and head to **Arkaoda,** where great indie rock enlivens the beautifully lit outdoor space, or to moody **Karga Bar,** whose sound track skews more low-key. Before embarking on a long night on the town, stop at **Çiya Sofrasi**—one of Istanbul's most celebrated restaurants despite its unassuming appearance—for traditional and hard-to-find regional cuisines from across the country (a highlight: lamb meatballs in cherry sauce). Another local favorite is **Cibalikapı Balıkçısı,** a *meyhane* with a tranquil courtyard just a short stroll from the sea. Kadıköy's bakeries are deservedly renowned: Minuscule **Serger** makes terrific *katmer* pastry laden with pistachios, while **Elif Pastanesi** has fabulous buttery cookies and the savory cheese–stuffed bread known as *pogaca.*

Cool as Kadıköy is, the high point of any visit may well be the ferry ride over, on a boat with throwback 1970s decor (at $1.50, it's also one of the city's cheapest thrills). To cross the Bosphorus from Karaköy at any time of day is to luxuriate in that strange feeling which is Istanbul's greatest gift to the rest of us—of being at the churning intersection of the world, at both the end and the beginning of time. ◆



KADIKÖY

EAT

Cibalikapı Balıkçısı
Kadir Has Caddesi 5; cibalikapibalikcisi.com.

Çiya Sofrasi
Güneşli Bahçe Sokak 43; ciya.com.tr.

Elif Pastanesi
Moda Caddesi 198; elifpastanesi.com.

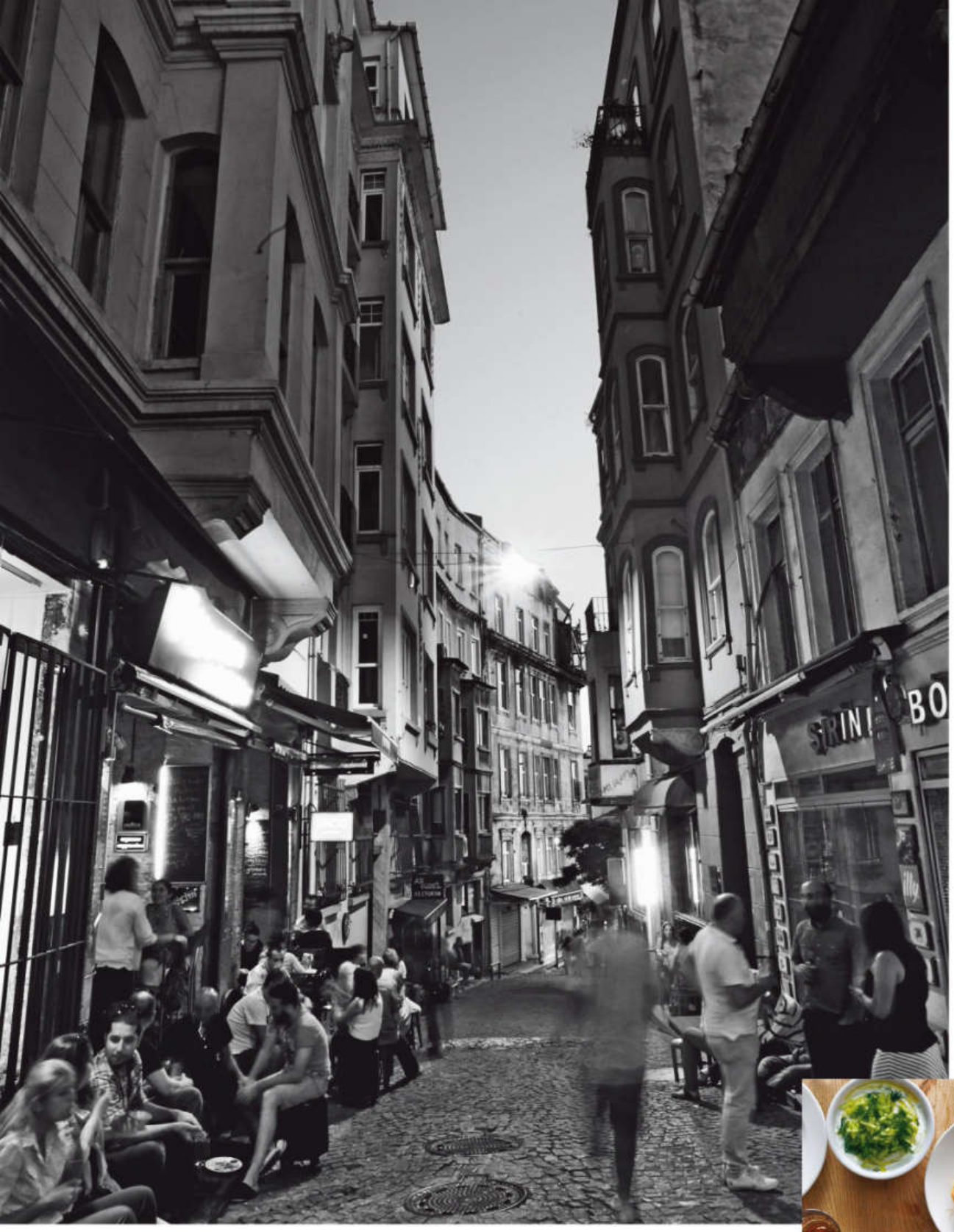
Serger
Moda Caddesi 100; 90-216-346-4682.

DRINK

Arkaoda
Kadife Sokak 18/A; arkaoda.com.

Karga Bar
Kadife Sokak 16.

A Note on Safety
Given recent security concerns in Turkey, it's a good idea to consult the latest U.S. State Department travel advisories before planning a trip: travel.state.gov.





From left: The lobby at Vault Karaköy hotel, in a nineteenth-century bank building; the lively street scene in Galata; traditional Mediterranean dishes like fried zucchini and kofte at Naif.

THE BODYHOLIDAY, ST. LUCIA

BLISSFUL BALANCE

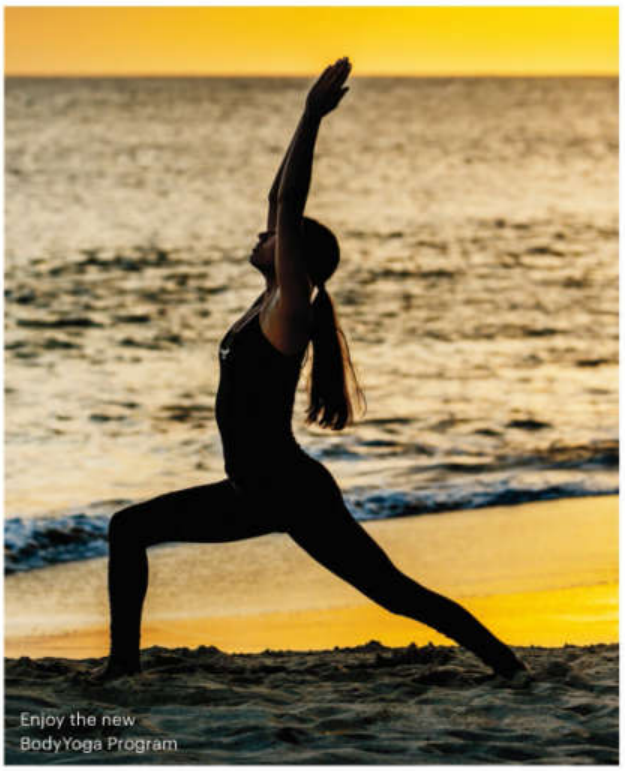
Check in and shape up your mind, body, and spirit

The BodyHoliday promise of "give us your body for a week and we'll give you back your mind" sums up the ethos of this *Condé Nast Traveler* Gold List Destination Spa. It's the only vacation in the world to offer a personalized experience that blends beach, spa, wellness, and decadence.

The oceanfront all-inclusive enclave operates within four pillars—relaxation, rejuvenation, exercise, and diet. Guests reinvigorate with an endless menu of fitness classes from yoga, Pilates, and tai chi to archery, golf, tennis, and spinning in a glass-enclosed treetop studio. Prior to arrival, each guest can personalize their vacation experience to their ideal program: Do as little or as much as you like.

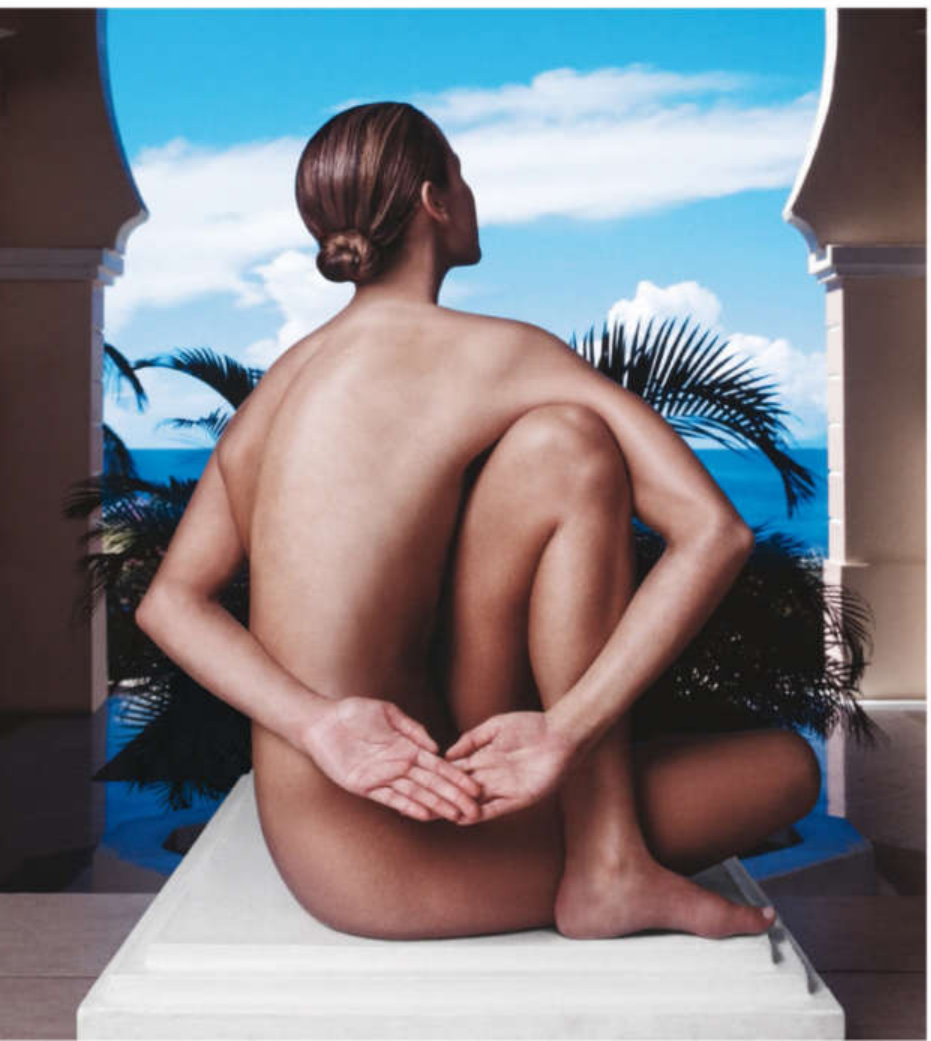
Plus, all stays include daily spa treatments in the intimate Moorish-influenced Wellness Centre, which includes the exclusive Dr. Michael Prager Skin Clinic.


The BodyHoliday Resort


Enjoy the new BodyYoga Program

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BODYHOLIDAY SAINT LUCIA

FIND YOUR GETAWAY BALANCE TODAY. GO TO THEBODYHOLIDAY.COM/CNT



Give us your body for a week and we'll give you back your mind. Of all the great beach vacations and spas in the world, only The BodyHoliday offers you the very best of both in beautiful Saint Lucia. Tailor your vacation to your wishes and choose from a menu of wellness options, sports and gourmet pleasures. It's all a body could ask for. To find out more about our exclusive reader offer call +1 888 877 4704 or visit

www.thebodyholiday.com/cnt

the bodyholiday
Saint Lucia

TRAVEL INTEL

Tips, tricks, and miscellany: Our editors' guide to navigating the world.

GOOD NEWS
Looks like the Concorde may take to the skies yet again. A British organization called Club Concorde has amassed nearly $250 million to relaunch the supersonic jet in 2019 for special events and charters.

UNBELIEVABLE NEWS
The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation is offering donors a $500,000 tax-deductible "custom hospitality program" for Rio 2016 that includes VIP seats, meetings with athletes, luxury accommodations, and transport.

BAD NEWS
Thai Airways pulled the plug on its U.S. operations, flying its final Bangkok–Seoul–Los Angeles route at the end of October—a downer for Star Alliance members, who can no longer use United miles on Thai.





215,000 Miles Logged Since 2014

Simon Winchester, the British journalist and nonfiction writer, on the best in-flight meal and the travel app he won't leave home without. His latest book, *Pacific,* is out this fall (HarperCollins, $29).

I always pack A LEICA M6 LOADED WITH BLACK-AND-WHITE FILM, A SILVA COMPASS, MY BOY SCOUT CAN OPENER, A MOLESKINE NOTEBOOK, AND WRIGLEY'S GUM—ON A ROAD TRIP THROUGH NORTHWESTERN CHINA, I USED SOME TO PLUG A GAS LEAK AND IT ACTUALLY HELD FOR FIVE MILES. My favorite luggage is A SMALL RED GLOBE-TROTTER CASE—NO WHEELS, ALWAYS CARRIED ON. My iPad is loaded with HUNDREDS OF RESEARCH BOOKS, LIKE HENRY T. BROWN'S "507 MECHANICAL MOVEMENTS: MECHANISMS & DEVICES." On planes I'll eat ANYTHING THAT'S PUT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT I LOVE THE INDIAN VEGETARIAN MEAL ON CATHAY PACIFIC. The app I use most on the road is TUNEIN RADIO, SO I CAN LISTEN TO THE SHIPPING FORECAST ON BBC. IT'S COMFORTING TO HEAR ABOUT STORM FORCE WINDS BATTERING SHIPS IN FINISTERRE AS I FALL ASLEEP.

This Month's Top Travel Tips from the Experts

1 ***See the Amazon on a new ship.*** "Two vessels, the *Amazon Discovery* and the MV *Zafiro,* began sailing the river in October," says Tom Damon of Southwind Adventures, "and both still have availability for five- and eight-night sails through May."

2 ***Do Central America with the kids.*** "Active families love Belize and Costa Rica for Spring Break," says Ignacio Vallin of Cox & Kings. "My top picks for hotels are Turtle Inn and Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort."

3 ***Book a private yacht in Greece.*** "There are three reasons to charter now," says Leftheris Papageorgiou of Hellenic Adventures. "You'll get 2015 prices for a 2016 trip, owners often provide early-booking discounts, and you'll have the best selection of boats."

4 ***See Botswana for less.*** "The Mambo and Little Mambo safari camps are known for great wildlife, but they're closed for parts of 2016," says Greatways Travel's Phoebe Weinberg. "Instead, stay at the temporary Mambo Trails Camp for about half the price."

5 ***Catch awesome soccer in Spain.*** "Real Madrid hosts Barcelona, Las Palmas, *and* Paris Saint-Germain at the famed Santiago Bernabéu Stadium this month," says Mary Vaira of El Sol Villas, who can help fans score great seats.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FERDINANDO SCIANNA/MAGNUM PHOTOS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID SPARSHOTT

How to Fly All Over Brazil for Less Than $300

Azul Airlines' new all-inclusive air passes let you wing around Brazil on as many flights as you can cram into 10 or 21 days, for as little as $299 (book by November 30 for travel through December 15). To give you the most bang for your buck, we asked three of our trusted South American fixers how they'd maximize time on the ground while minimizing layovers (voeazul.com).





LUXE ADVENTURE

Days 1–3: Start in **Rio.** Hike the Tijuca rain forest and go hang-gliding at sunset off Pedra Bonita mountain. *Then fly to Campo Grande.*
Days 3–5: Go jaguar and macaw spotting in **Pantanal** via speedboat and 4WD in the wetlands. *Then fly to Porto Seguro.*
Days 5–7: Spend long days in **Trancoso** kite-surfing on the beach. *Then fly to Lençóis.*
Days 7–9: Hike, bike, and go caving in **Chapada Diamantina National Park.** *Then fly to Manaus.*
Days 9–11: Wrap up your journey by swimming with pink dolphins in the **Amazon.**

Planned by Iman Irvine at Dehouche (dehouche.com).

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Days 1–4: See Brazilian modernist art at **São Paulo**'s Pinacoteca Museum or gallery-hop in the Villa Madalena neighborhood. *Then fly to Rio.*
Days 4–6: Check out the excellent classic folk art at **Rio**'s Museo Casa do Pontal. *Then fly to Belo Horizonte.*
Days 6–8: Wander through the Inhotim contemporary sculpture park, and snap pics of the Portuguese Baroque architecture in **Ouro Preto.** *Then fly to Brasília.*
Days 8–11: Finally, visit **Brasília** to see Oscar Niemeyer's iconic white-stone architecture.

Planned by Emmanuel Burgio at Blue Parallel (blueparallel.com).

BEACH RETREAT

Days 1–3: Beach hop in **Rio,** from the sceney Copacabana and Ipanema to the more laid-back Barra. *Then fly to Porto Seguro.*
Days 3–5: Decompress completely in **Trancoso,** the most intoxicating destination in Bahia. *Then fly to Salvador.*
Days 5–7: Peel yourself off the sand to stroll past the pastel-painted buildings in **Salvador.** *Then fly to Recife.*
Days 7–9: Explore the charming colonial town of **Olinda.** *Then fly to Fernando de Noronha.*
Days 9–11: Snorkel in the turquoise waters of a 21-island archipelago in **Fernando de Noronha.**

Planned by Martin Frankenberg at Matueté (matuete.com).

OMBUDSMAN

Iced Out in Italy

Q I rented a car from Hertz in Venice to take my family skiing in the Dolomites. The company gave us an SUV complete with snow chains, but after our arrival in Sexten, near the Austrian border, the fuel froze, rendering the vehicle unusable. The closest Hertz rental office, in Bolzano, had no cars available; ditto the Trento location. At the end of our stay—still carless, mind you!—we took a taxi ($338) and a train ($225) to get to Zurich, our departure city. Because Hertz was of no help, I e-mailed American Express, and it refunded the $763.83 cost of the rental. Now Hertz has added me to its "do not rent" list—*and* it sent my bill to a collection agency! What should I do? *–Edward S., Rancho Santa Fe, California*

A Hertz Italy did a poor job of handling this problem in the moment, but it's still best to deal directly with the travel company involved in a dispute before calling your credit card company. Of course, if you can't resolve the problem and the deadline is approaching for disputing a charge with your credit card company—usually 90 days from the transaction date—it's wise to file a claim with the card company. After Ombudsman contacted Hertz, it voided the charges for the rental-gone-wrong, removed the reader's name from its DNR list, paid for the extra cab and train rides, *and* offered a week's worth of points as a goodwill gesture.

Need help solving a travel problem? Ombudsman offers advice and mediation: E-mail ombudsman@cntraveler.com.

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FLORIDA'S FINEST

AMELIA ISLAND
EDEN ROC
FLORIDA KEYS
SEAGATE HOTEL
SOUTH WALTON



➤ **FLORIDA'S THE GO-TO GETAWAY FOR FUN** in the sun. And with insider tips from travel blogger and fashion local Kara Franker, you'll also discover some Sunshine State surprises—iconic architecture, natural wonders, and a treasure trove of activities. From the eastern coast to the Gulf and the Florida Keys, start digging for gold.



LOCAL LOVES

EAT
Sunset Grille
7 Knights Key Boulevard
Marathon, FL

DRINK
Florida Keys Brewing Co.
200 Morada Way,
Islamorada, FL

SHOP
Terra Nova
712-A Duval Street
Key West, FL

THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST

ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS

FROM OUTDOOR THRILLS TO HISTORIC SITES AND CULTURAL DELIGHTS, YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE KEYS

WITH CORAL REEFS, STUNNING SUNSETS, spectacular seafood, and a laid-back vibe, The Florida Keys & Key West are full of unique discoveries—and this season you'll find lighted boat parades, arts festivals, and concerts under the stars. Rich in history, arts, and culture, the 120-mile island chain also offers up eco-tours, sportfishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, and more. Home to the continental United States' only living-coral barrier reef, the area's diving is unparalleled.

"THE BEST ROAD TRIP IN THE COUNTRY IS THE STRETCH OF THE OVERSEAS HIGHWAY LEADING FROM MIAMI DOWN THROUGH KEY LARGO & ISLAMORADA TO KEY WEST."
—Kara Franker

Start in Key Largo, where you can hike wildlife trails, go snorkeling, and even stay in an underwater hotel. Explore Islamorada, known as the sportfishing capital of the world. These islands are also home to beautiful nature reserves and some amazing vistas. At the midpoint of the Florida Keys, Marathon has everything from golf courses and historical sites to great beaches and world-class diving. Get back to nature in Big Pine Key and the Lower Keys with a campout or a tranquil kayak tour. The southernmost Florida Key, vibrant Key West is a cultural paradise—check out its theaters, music venues, galleries, and historic houses, like the one Ernest Hemingway called home.

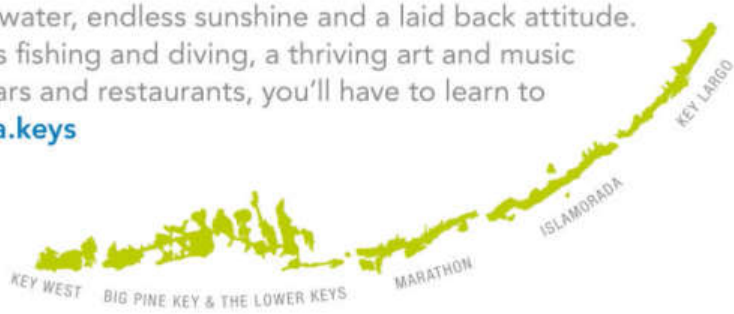


PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST (MONROE COUNTY TDC).



The Florida Keys & Key West
come as you are®

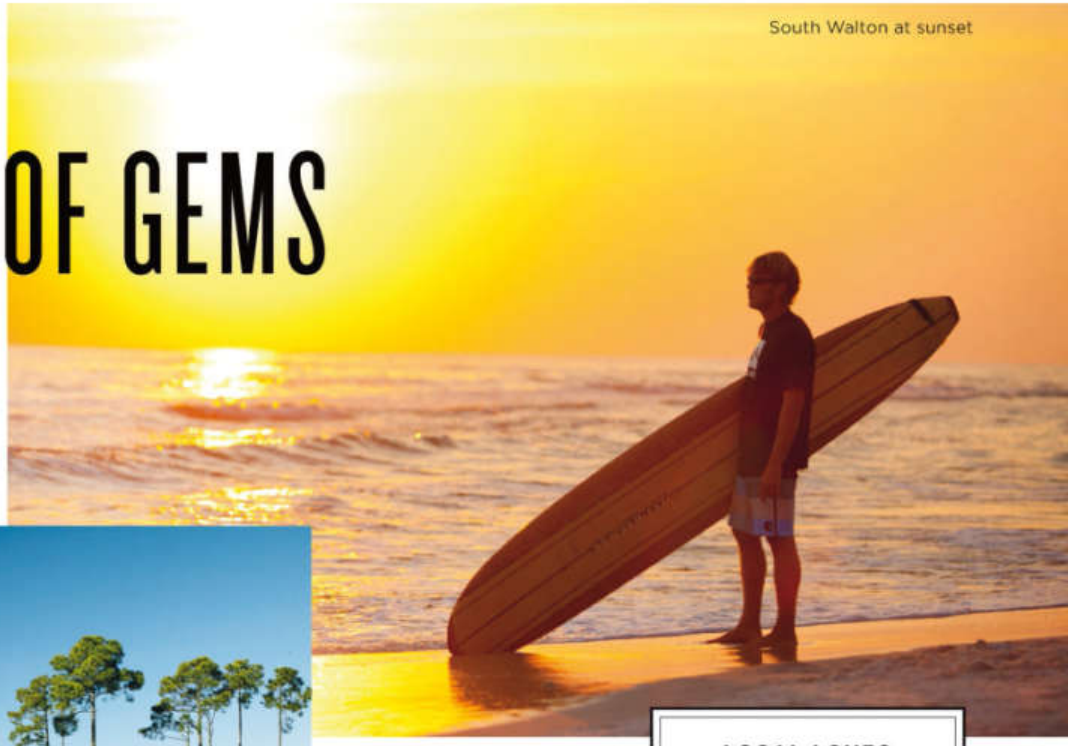
The Florida Keys is known for warm water, endless sunshine and a laid back attitude. But with everything from world-class fishing and diving, a thriving art and music scene and an incredible variety of bars and restaurants, you'll have to learn to pace yourself. **fla-keys.com 1.800.fla.keys**



SOUTH WALTON

A COLLECTION OF GEMS

FOR TURQUOISE GULF WATER AND SUGAR-WHITE SAND, ESCAPE TO THE DIVERSE BEACH NEIGHBORHOODS OF SOUTH WALTON



South Walton at sunset



World-class golfing

WHILE ALYS BEACH HAS A MEDITERRANEAN feel, with fountains, courtyards and white stucco structures, Rosemary Beach features a blend of old Florida and Dutch West Indies architecture. WaterSound has a Cape Cod feel, and WaterColor has won awards for water conservation, clean air practices and energy efficiency. The picturesque Seaside neighborhood's traditional pastel-hued homes and white picket fences set a historic standard for the development of walkable communities.

"SET SAIL ABOARD THE SOLARIS YACHT FOR BREATHTAKING SUNSET VIEWS OF CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY."
—Kara Franker

While you're here, splash in the waves in Miramar Beach or Seascape or try stand-up paddleboarding in Sandestin, hit the golf course or tennis court, go fishing or bird-watching at one of the area's rare coastal dune lakes, or explore hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails through state parks, forests, and preserves. Relax with a luxurious beachside spa treatment or browse in boutiques, galleries, and designer outlets. When hunger strikes, South Walton's food scene delivers, with gourmet markets, fresh seafood, local ingredients, and a range of international cuisines. Live music venues—as well as South Walton's very own Seaside Repertory Theatre—will add excitement to your night.

LOCAL LOVES

PLAY
YOLO Board + Beach
11610 Highway 98 West
Miramar Beach, FL

RIDE
Timpoochee Trail
Highway 30A
Dune Allen, FL

DRINK
Bud & Alley's
2236 East County Road 30A
Seaside, FL



Fresh Gulf seafood cuisine

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF VISIT SOUTH WALTON


SOUTH WALTON
FLORIDA
BRING A BOOK
BUT WRITE YOUR OWN STORY.
16 ACCLAIMED BEACHES NESTLED ALONG MILES AND MILES OF SUGAR-WHITE SAND,
TURQUOISE GULF WATER AND AN ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY TO FIND YOUR PERFECT BEACH.
MIRAMAR BEACH
SEASCAPE
SANDESTIN
DUNE ALLEN
GULF PLACE
SANTA ROSA BEACH
BLUE MOUNTAIN
GRAYTON BEACH
WATERCOLOR
SEASIDE
SEAGROVE
WATERSOUND
SEACREST
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ROSEMARY BEACH
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Edgewater
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and seaside charm.
edgewaterbeach.com | 800-822-4929



The NOBU Pool

EDEN ROC

TIMELESS CREATIVITY

FOR AN IMPRESSIVE GETAWAY, DISCOVER EDEN ROC ON MIAMI BEACH

WITH ITS LEGENDARY TOWER AND ultramodern Ocean Tower, this iconic Collins Avenue hotel is both classic and contemporary. With breathtaking views over the Miami Beach oceanfront, the yacht-lined Intracoastal Waterway, or the mansions of fabled Millionaire's Row, the resort's spacious and stylish rooms and suites pair streamlined design elements with luxurious amenities and forward-thinking technology.





Eden Roc Resort
Miami Beach

Splash in the resort's four pools or get pampered in the serene spa. On the beach, soak up the sun in comfort with facial sprays and cold towels, and let the Beach Concierge arrange for boats or snorkel gear when you decide to hit the water. And for afterward, the retreat's recent transformations include a dramatic refresh of its iconic Lobby Bar and a brand-new on-site Nobu Miami Beach Restaurant from the signature team behind the legendary Nobu restaurant empire.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF EDEN ROC RESORT MIAMI BEACH

DISCOVER EDEN ROC AT EDENROCMIAMI.COM

THE SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA

COASTAL CHARM

TUCKED AWAY IN THE QUAINT RESORT TOWN OF DELRAY BEACH, THE SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA IS A HIDDEN GEM

IDEALLY SITUATED ON ATLANTIC AVENUE, the hotel is home to The Atlantic Grille, three pools, unique boutiques, and a luxurious spa and fitness center. During your stay, experience one of the best golf courses in Palm Beach County at The Seagate Country Club, and enjoy The Seagate Beach Club's oceanfront restaurants along with Delray's award-winning beach.



The Seagate Beach Club

"THE ATLANTIC GRILLE FEATURES A BEAUTIFUL SHARK TANK AND YOU CAN GET AROUND VIA THE HOTEL'S SIGNATURE TROLLEY CARS."
—Kara Franker

After a day of fun in the sun or an exciting evening on Atlantic Avenue, relax and recharge in one of The Seagate's sophisticated, amenity-filled guest rooms. With thoughtful touches like fine Egyptian cotton linens, mini-bars, microwave ovens, Keurig® coffeemakers, 42-inch HDTVs and 24-hour room service—as well as tech-forward features like high-speed wireless Internet, SMART Room Technology and iHome docking stations—every room and suite at The Seagate will wrap you in comfort, convenience and style.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA

VISITFLORIDA.COM

DISCOVER THE SEAGATE HOTEL AND SPA AT THESEAGATEHOTEL.COM

THE SEAGATE

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AMELIA ISLAND

A TIMELESS TREASURE

LOCAL LOVES

Fernandina Beach Arts & Farmers' Market
N. 7th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL



WITH NATURAL BEAUTY, VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE, AND LOADS OF SOUTHERN CHARM, AMELIA ISLAND IS A REAL GEM

RIDE HORSEBACK ON WIDE BEACHES LINED WITH dunes and live oaks, watch shrimp boats return to the marina with their daily catch, or play a round of golf on an award-winning course. Relax with a luxurious spa treatment or explore the shops, restaurants, and art galleries downtown before settling in at a well-appointed B&B on this idyllic Florida isle.

VISITFLORIDA.COM

DISCOVER AMELIA ISLAND AT AMELIAISLAND.COM






THE BARON SUITE
THE MULIA


THE DUKE SUITE
MULIA RESORT


ONE BEDROOM VILLA
MULIA VILLAS

Indulging, Luxurious & Beyond


THE EARL SUITE PATIO
THE MULIA


THE DUKE SUITE PATIO
MULIA RESORT


TWO BEDROOM VILLA POOL
MULIA VILLAS

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#3 ON TOP 100 HOTELS & RESORTS IN THE WORLD

Condé Nast Traveler - Readers' Choice Awards USA (2014)

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The Earl Suite

MULIA, BALI

EXCLUSIVELY ELEGANT

Escape to the unique gems of Bali at The Mulia and Mulia Villas for unparalleled beauty, refined luxury, and impeccable service

Bali's stunning Nusa Dua coastline is home to a dream destination—The Mulia and Mulia Villas. Whether you stay at the boutique all-suite resort or in a private hillside villa, you'll be in excellent hands. These properties ranked #1 Beach Resort in Asia in *Condé Nast Traveler*'s 2014 Readers' Choice Awards and one of the World's Best Beach Resorts in *Condé Nast Traveler* China's 2015 Gold List. The spacious suites at The Mulia offer a seamless indoor-outdoor experience, with views of the infinity pool lined by serene Balinese statues and beyond to the azure waters of the Indian Ocean. Enjoy superb gourmet meals and personal butler service during your pampered stay. After a refreshing swim, relax in your expansive and polished suite featuring a state-of-the-art entertainment system and a private patio with a Jacuzzi. You'll surely have a blissful time thanks to this beachfront haven's unmatched comfort, amenities, and style.

The ultimate in privacy and luxury, Mulia Villas is an exclusive retreat perched on the green hills of Nusa Dua. The layout of this exquisite escape was inspired by traditional terraced Balinese rice paddy fields, and each villa is an intimate oasis with its own hydrotherapy pool, private garden, and ocean vistas. Stroll on secluded pathways through lush landscapes, and stop at the Mulia Spa for a decadent body treatment or rejuvenating massage. This sanctuary's tranquility, beauty, and service truly transcend those of conventional tropical getaways.

Whichever magnificent Mulia property you choose, you're certain to have an absolutely enchanting experience.



Family Villas

THE MULIA, MULIA RESORT & VILLAS
NUSA DUA - BALI

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY THE MULIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THEMULIA.COM

ADVERTISEMENT

2015 CNT RCA

The Collection

A selection of outstanding hotels and resorts from this year's Readers' Choice Survey.

2015 RCA

The Collection



PARK HYATT ZURICH
Positioned in the heart of the city, the exclusive Park Hyatt Zurich is a sleek and sophisticated boutique hotel.

PARK HYATT ZURICH™



GRAND HYATT KAUA'I RESORT & SPA
Find your paradise at this luxury oceanfront resort where lush gardens, pristine pools, and the world-class Anara Spa welcome you to relax and unwind.

GRAND | HYATT
KAUA'I RESORT & SPA



QUALIA GREAT BARRIER REEF
Surrounded by the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, qualia is a unique expression of world-class luxury. Immerse yourself in a relaxed atmosphere, where everything has been considered to relax the mind and completely spoil the senses.

qualia



THE OSTHOFF RESORT
Located on the shores of Elkhart Lake, WI, The Osthoff Resort is a premier AAA Four Diamond destination.

OSTHOFF RESORT



WINDSOR COURT HOTEL
Southern charm meets classic English-style decor at this premier New Orleans hideaway just steps from the historic French Quarter.

WINDSOR COURT HOTEL



LADERA RESORT
Taking full advantage of St. Lucia's natural surroundings, Ladera Resort offers a unique design throughout its guest accommodations. All 37 suites have an "open wall" exposing breathtaking views of the volcanic twin Pitons—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the Caribbean Sea.

LADERA
A ROMANTIC PARADISE



THE PENINSULA SHANGHAI
Stylish and sophisticated, the award-winning Peninsula Shanghai offers Art Deco elegance with state-of-the-art facilities, impeccable views and unsurpassed levels of service.

THE PENINSULA
SHANGHAI

The Collection

2015 RCA



BUSHMANS KLOOF WILDERNESS RESERVE & WELLNESS RETREAT
Readers' Choice Award-Winning Resort in South Africa
A Red Carnation Hotel



THE OYSTER BOX
Readers' Choice Award-Winning Hotel in South Africa
A Red Carnation Hotel



THE TWELVE APOSTLES HOTEL AND SPA
Readers' Choice Award-Winning Hotel in South Africa
A Red Carnation Hotel



HOTEL OKURA TOKYO
Hotel Okura Tokyo welcomes guests with a relaxing space featuring traditional motifs, along with Japanese-style heartfelt hospitality.



HAMMOCK BEACH, FLORIDA
Located just south of historic St. Augustine, this AAA Four-Diamond ocean front resort features spacious accommodations and exceptional amenities. The Multilevel Water Pavilion features four of the resort's 10 pools. Golfers have access to 36 holes of signature golf with our Nicklaus Ocean and Watson Conservatory Courses.



WATERCOLOR INN & RESORT
The perfect combination of beachfront accommodations and amenities including award-winning dining, spa services, and recreational activities in Northwest Florida.



AUDUBON COTTAGES OF THE NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
are a unique collection of seven luxurious Creole cottages, providing guests an authentic and historic French Quarter experience.



TERRANEA RESORT
Terranea Resort, located on the Palos Verdes peninsula, is Los Angeles' premier oceanfront resort.

2015 RCA

The Collection



ANANTARA HOI AN RESORT, VIETNAM
offers boutique luxury beside the Thu Bon River in the historic port town of Hoi An.

ANANTARA
HOI AN · RESORT



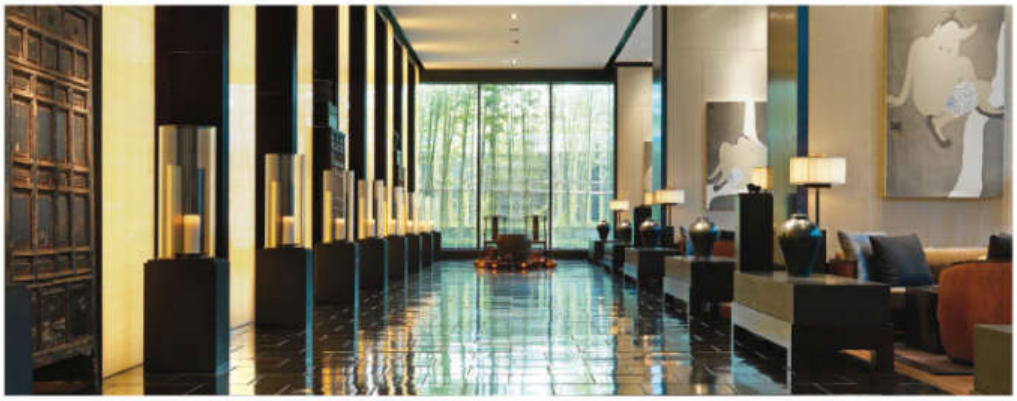
ANANTARA CHIANG MAI , THAILAND
Experience riverside luxury, a waterfront pool, spa pampering, Thai boxing and cooking classes, colonial tea rituals, Asian and Western dining.

ANANTARA
CHIANG MAI · RESORT



ANANTARA GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THAILAND
The hilltop jungle retreat boasts three country views. Discovery Packages combine all-inclusive benefits with signature activities, spa, and more.

ANANTARA
GOLDEN TRIANGLE
ELEPHANT CAMP & RESORT



THE PULI HOTEL AND SPA
The PuLi Hotel and Spa is centrally located at the heart of Shanghai's JingAn district, right at the doorstep of the French Concession, where everything is at the fingertips for both leisure and business travelers. Look Closer.

THE PULI
HOTEL AND SPA



HOTEL LE MARAIS
OF THE NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
is a delightful boutique retreat in the heart of the French Quarter, America's most European city!

HOTEL le marais



INTERCONTINENTAL SYDNEY
Some people visit Sydney's icons. Others stay in them. Experience the luxury that is InterContinental Sydney.

InterContinental.
SYDNEY



THE LANDING RESORT AND SPA
is South Lake Tahoe's new luxury hotel offering beautiful lake views and Jimmy's Restaurant.

The Landing



NITA LAKE LODGE
Nestled on the shores of a glacier-fed lake in Whistler, BC, Nita Lake Lodge offers genuine service with a personal touch.

NITA LAKE
LODGE

The Collection

2015 RCA



THE GARLAND
Los Angeles is our backyard. Guests are our friends and locals, our family. Take a break from the hustle of life and unwind in our urban oasis.

THE GARLAND



THE SUKHOTHAI BANGKOK
Reflections of an unforgettable experience... Tastefully designed rooms and suites with pool and garden views. Culinary pleasures include exquisite Thai and Italian cuisine and never-ending Sunday brunches. The Sukhothai Bangkok, a symbol of an ancient kingdom in a thriving metropolis.

THE SUKHOTHAI BANGKOK



HOTEL ZAZA DALLAS
Nestled in Dallas' fashionable Uptown District, Hotel ZaZa is the boutique hotel brand of Texas!

HOTEL ZAZA



SELMAN MARRAKECH
is a true blend between a modern lifestyle and Moroccan tradition. An authentic Arabian-Moorish palace of distinct, sublime, and alluring charm.

SELMAN MARRAKECH



MAGNOLIA HOTEL & SPA, CANADA
Victoria's top rated boutique hotel. Provides luxurious accommodations and outstanding service in the heart of downtown!

MAGNOLIA



ST. REGIS BALI RESORT
The elegant beachfront resort with its legacy of luxury, panoramic ocean views, lush gardens, and 3,668 square miles of crystal blue lagoon features 123 suites and villas with award-winning dining options, bars, spa, gym, and a Children's Learning Center.

ST REGIS BALI



BOURBON ORLEANS OF THE NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
A newly restored Bourbon Orleans of the New Orleans Collection offers the elegance and grandeur of a European boutique hotel.

BOURBON ORLEANS HOTEL

2015 RCA

The Collection



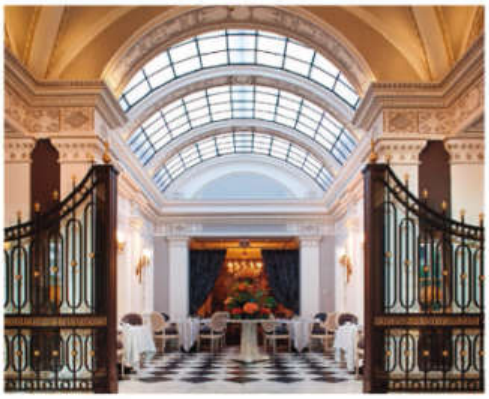
LIZARD ISLAND
24 private beaches. Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef, like nowhere else.

Lizard Island



THE PEARL HOTEL
An adult-oriented ultra-luxury experience on Northwest Florida's Scenic 30A, featuring sophisticated accommodations, destination–worthy cuisine, and an alluring spa.

THE PEARL



THE JEFFERSON, WASHINGTON, DC
Centrally located, The Jefferson is a luxury boutique hotel that exemplifies all that its namesake held dear, including exceptional personalized service.

THE JEFFERSON
WASHINGTON DC



PARK HYATT BEIJING
Located at the highest point on Chang'An Avenue where the vibrant Beijing city is just at your doorstep, only 10 minutes to Tiananmen Square.

北京柏悦酒店
PARK HYATT BEIJING



THE ROOSEVELT NEW ORLEANS
A Waldorf Astoria Hotel Experience. The Roosevelt New Orleans is home to the famed Sazerac Bar, with luxury that only a Waldorf Astoria can provide.

The Roosevelt
NEW ORLEANS



THE NANTUCKET HOTEL + RESORT
Open year-round and conveniently located downtown. Join us for a Thanksgiving getaway, Christmas Stroll Weekend or our New Year's Eve festivities and Gala Ball.

N
THE NANTUCKET
HOTEL + RESORT



THE RITZ-CARLTON, DOVE MOUNTAIN
Nestled in Southern Arizona, this luxury resort is a place where adventure and a gracious spirit come to life.

THE RITZ-CARLTON



SHINTA MANI CLUB
This exceptional hotel enjoys a leafy setting in Siem Reap—15 minutes from the magnificent temples of Angkor Wat.

SHINTA MANI



THE THOMPSON CHICAGO
offers sophistication of a home-away-from-home style with understated elegance in the effervescent Gold Coast neighborhood.

THOMPSON
CHICAGO

The Collection

2015 RCA



FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO
Known as the White House of the West, Fairmont is a hotel so grand, they built a city around it.

Fairmont SAN FRANCISCO



EAU PALM BEACH RESORT & SPA
Happiness rules at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, where excitement, passion, and style meet at this luxury beach resort and home to the Forbes Five Star Eau Spa.

EAU PALM BEACH Resort & Spa



PARK HYATT SIEM REAP
Experience authentic Cambodian Hospitality in the heart of the Siem Reap and close to the Temples and International Airport

PARK HYATT SIEM REAP



THE QUIN, NEW YORK
The New Penthouse and Terrace Suites at the Quin. Expansive Outdoor Spaces Overlooking Central Park.

the QUIN



SANDALS EMERALD BAY
Presenting the rare combination of award-winning service and a breathtaking beach setting in the Bahamian Out Islands, Sandals Emerald Bay is undeniably extraordinary.

Sandals EMERALD BAY



WALDORF ASTORIA PARK CITY
The only Forbes Four Star hotel located within the largest ski and golf resort in the United States.

WALDORF ASTORIA PARK CITY



SANDALS LASOURCE GRENADA
Set along Pink Gin Beach, Sandals LaSource Grenada presents premier luxury with three exotic villages, 10 gourmet restaurants, and exceptional service.

Sandals LaSource GRENADA

2015 RCA

The Collection



THE CHESTERFIELD HOTEL PALM BEACH
Located in the heart of Palm Beach, Florida, the elegant Chesterfield Hotel combines relaxed Palm Beach style with old-world charm.

The Chesterfield PALM BEACH



ROW NYC HOTEL
has pioneered a new era of individuality while transforming our guests stay into a completely contemporary experience.

ROW · nyc ·



OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION RESORT
is recognized for offering a luxury resort experience in perfect harmony with nature.

OMNI RESORTS amelia island plantation



MEADOWOOD NAPA VALLEY
Natural beauty, privacy, gracious hospitality, tennis, golf, swimming, hiking, spa, fitness, a Michelin Three-Star dining experience, and wine.

MEADOWOOD Napa Valley



WAILEA BEACH VILLAS
Indulge yourself at Maui's most exclusive beachfront villa resort, offering luxurious vacation residences, with included hotel services, dining, and spa experiences.

WAILEA BEACH VILLAS
A DESTINATION LUXURY HOTEL



THE ALFOND INN
A new boutique hotel in historic Winter Park, FL features the popular Hamilton's Kitchen restaurant, pool, fitness center, and flexible meeting space.

THE ALFOND INN



HYATT REGENCY MAUI RESORT & SPA
Experience authentic Hawaiian hospitality at Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa, while you enjoy elegant accommodations, endless activities, and world-class dining.

HYATT REGENCY



THE WESTIN BUND CENTER SHANGHAI
Located downtown and standing in the center of Shanghai's historic Bund waterfront with easy access to many tourist attractions.

THE WESTIN BUND CENTER SHANGHAI



MATANGI PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT
This intimate boutique private island resort offers natural beauty, authenticity, and the warmth of traditional Fijian hospitality.

Matangi Private Island Resort FIJI

The Collection

2015 RCA



C LAZY U RANCH
C Lazy U is Colorado's premier guest ranch, featuring luxury accommodations, fine dining, an award-winning spa, and limitless activities.

C Lazy U RANCH



THE MODERN HONOLULU
introduces cosmopolitan chic to Hawaii. We invite you to make the most of every moment with us.

THE MODERN HONOLULU



TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WAIKIKI BEACH WALK
provides ultra-luxury accommodations and impeccable service, steps from world-class shopping, dining, and Waikiki Beach.

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL



FAIRMONT PEACE HOTEL
An Art-Deco masterpiece in the centre of bustling Shanghai invites you to experience this glamorous playground for the world's elite in 1930s.

Fairmont PEACE HOTEL



THE EPIC MIAMI
EPIC upgrades! Your choice of continental breakfast or two cocktails daily for just $5 more. Book now using code CONDE.

EPIC MIAMI



JW MARRIOTT SHANGHAI TOMORROW SQUARE
Experience Shanghai with 360° city views at JW Marriott Shanghai at Tomorrow Square.

JW MARRIOTT



THE INN AT RANCHO SANTA FE
is located on 21 acres of landscaped grounds with winding pathways to relaxation.

The Inn



HOTEL MULIA SENAYAN JAKARTA
Located right in the heart of Jakarta's bustling financial district, where style and magnificence await you.

HOTEL MULIA



THE MULIA, BALI
Nestled on the dramatic coastline of Nusa Dua, The Mulia, Mulia Resort & Villas evokes a relaxed yet polished sensibility.

THE MULIA

2015 RCA

The Collection



HOTEL WAILEA
The first and only Relais & Châteaux property in Hawaii, Hotel Wailea is an intimate adults-only escape infused with European-inspired elegance.

Hotel Wailea MAUI



FAIRMONT MIRAMAR HOTEL & BUNGALOWS, SANTA MONICA
Cuisine by FIG Restaurant, The Bungalow by Brent Bolthouse, fitness by exhale mind body spa, and bungalows by Michael Berman.

Fairmont MIRAMAR HOTEL & BUNGALOWS



MARCO BEACH OCEAN RESORT, FLORIDA
Overlooking the white sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, Marco Beach Ocean Resort is an all-suite beachfront boutique resort.

Marco Beach OCEAN RESORT®



PARK HYATT SAIGON
A brand new luxury hotel with 10 amazing years of history in the middle of bustling Saigon.

PARK HYATT SAIGON™



SUNDANCE MOUNTAIN RESORT, UTAH
Sundance Mountain Resort is a community committed to the balance of art, nature, and community.

sundance MOUNTAIN RESORT



THE LODGE AND SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH, WYOMING
Immerse yourself in majestic scenery, limitless luxury, and endless adventure across 30,000 acres in the heart of the American West.

THE LODGE & SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH



MII AMO, A DESTINATION SPA
Taking a holistic approach to rejuvenation, Mii Amo in Sedona, Arizona honors guests on a journey of enrichment and exploration in a nurturing environment.

Mii amo a destination spa



ENCHANTMENT RESORT, ARIZONA
captivates guests with the rugged beauty of Sedona's Southwest together with unparalleled luxury accommodations and unsurpassed service.

ENCHANTMENT RESORT



MAKENA BEACH & GOLF RESORT, MAUI, HAWAII
Reasons to spend your next vacation at Makena? No resort fee, free parking, and WiFi are three. Generous doses of Aloha is another.

MAKENA BEACH & GOLF RESORT MAUI, HAWAII

The Collection

2015 RCA



TE WAONUI FOREST RETREAT
Immerse yourself in nature and the unique surrounds of New Zealand's Franz Josef Region at the eco-luxe Te Waonui Forest Retreat.

Te Waonui FOREST RETREAT



GRAND HOTEL
Located on Michigan's historic Mackinac Island, Grand Hotel is America's premier summer family resort offering outstanding accommodations, activities, and dining.

Grand Hotel



THE RITZ-CARLTON, ISTANBUL
The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul blends culture and sophistication at the heart of the world's crossroads between Asia and Europe.

THE RITZ-CARLTON ISTANBUL



INN AT LOST CREEK RESORT, TELLURIDE
An award-winning luxury boutique hotel with an unbeatable ski-in/ski-out location and a team offering highly personalized and quality service.

INN AT LOST CREEK TELLURIDE



PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB
Northeast Florida's AAA Five Diamond Resort features miles of serene beaches, picturesque golf, Har-Tru HydroCourt tennis courts and a world-class spa.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club



LA FONDA ON THE PLAZA™
Begin your Santa Fe adventure on the historic Plaza, where Four Diamond luxury will surround you with history, art, and culture.

La Fonda On the Plaza



MANDARIN ORIENTAL, WASHINGTON, DC
Mandarin Oriental, Washington DC offers an elegant urban retreat in one of the world's most important cities.



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL WESTLAKE VILLAGE
is located minutes from Malibu and offers a spectrum of resort-style amenities including spa, acres of gardens, two pools, wine tasting room, and outdoor dining.

Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, California



MOKARA HOTEL & SPA, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
offers upscale elegance with 99 rooms, a world-class spa, and Ostra, an unrivaled seafood epicurean experience.

MOKARA HOTELS & SPAS

2015 RCA

The Collection



BREWERY GULCH INN, CALIFORNIA
Luxury accommodations and gourmet fare on the Mendocino Coast.

Brewery Gulch Inn
Mendocino



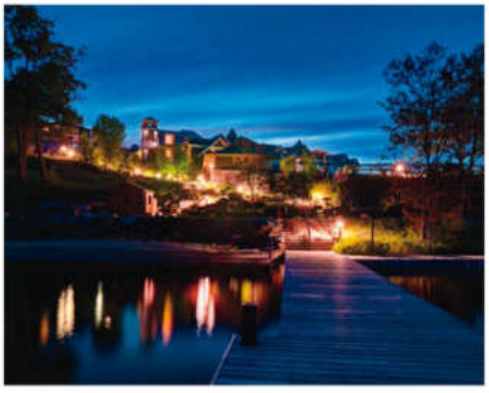
THE INN & CLUB AT HARBOUR TOWN
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The Inn & Club
at Harbour Town



THE KIMBERLY HOTEL, NEW YORK
offers one-and two-bedroom suites featuring luxurious European linens, two dining establishments, and an award winning rooftop bar.

The Kimberly



JW MARRIOTT THE ROSSEAU MUSKOKA
Luxury year-round resort, spa, and conference center overlooking Lake Rosseau in scenic Muskoka, two hours north of Toronto, Canada.

JW Marriott
The Rosseau
Muskoka



MADDEN'S ON GULL LAKE
is Minnesota's Classic Resort Destination. Award-winning golf, dining, spa, and upscale accommodations just 2 hours from Minnesota St. Paul Airport.

Madden's
on Gull Lake



THE LOWELL
Located in the heart of New York City, The Lowell offers a timeless elegance and the quintessential luxury travel experience.

The Lowell
New York



OMNI LA MANSION DEL RIO
Situated in downtown San Antonio, the historic Omni La Mansión del Rio offers old-world charm with modern comforts.

Omni Hotels
la mansión | san antonio



PALACIO DE MARQUESA , TAOS
Luxury 8-room inn in Taos, NM celebrating the remarkable women artists of Taos through contemporary Southwestern design.

Palacio
de
Marquesa
Taos



WESTIN RIVERFRONT BEAVER CREEK
Experience a top Colorado resort with direct skier access to Beaver Creek Mountain, ski valet, spacious condominiums and Spa Anjali.

The Westin
Riverfront
Resort & Spa
at Beaver Creek Mountain

The Collection

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JADE MOUNTAIN
Rising majestically above a 600–acre beachfront estate, Jade Mountain is an architectural marvel celebrating Saint Lucia's stunning scenic beauty.

Nick Troubetzkoy's JADE MOUNTAIN St. Lucia



MOMBO
Extraordinary wildlife encounters in the heart of Botswana's Okavango Delta, blended with warm local hospitality and unparalleled levels of comfort.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS



MUKUL BEACH GOLF & SPA
Mukul Beach, Golf & Spa, an award-winning, 5 Star oceanfront escape on the Emerald Coast of Nicaragua.

Mukul



THE GASPARILLA INN & CLUB
The Gasparilla Inn & Club has been serving guests since 1913 as a classic "old Florida" resort located on Gasparilla Island.

The Gasparilla Inn & Club



THE BROWN HOTEL
The Brown is an historic Four Diamond hotel built in 1923 featuring classic English Renaissance architecture in the heart of downtown Louisville.

The BROWN HOTEL



WINDSOR ARMS TORONTO
At the Windsor Arms, historic and new-millennium amenities are fused together to create a delicate balance of old-world charm and modern decadence.

WINDSOR ARMS



BRASADA RANCH, OREGON
Experience the Ranch Life: golf, spa, horseback riding, dining, luxurious lodging, and sunsets unlike everything else you've come to expect.

BRASADA RANCH



RADISSON BLU MALL OF AMERICA AND RADISSON BLU AQUA HOTEL, CHICAGO
Upgrade to Blu. Iconic. Stylish. Sophisticated. So New, So You.

Radisson BLU

COMING IN JANUARY 2016

The Collection

GOLD LIST ISSUE



Speedbird Calling

IT'S THE LITTLE things that make flying bearable, especially these days: an in-flight magazine's beautifully designed route map; amenity-kit ear plugs that by some miracle fit perfectly; a mix of warm nuts in a small ramekin. I've been compulsively collecting airline ephemera for decades, with a particular eye for finds from British Overseas Airways Corporation, the pioneer of modern jet service and the first airline I flew on as an infant in 1965. BOAC's avant-garde logo—a pointed dart, designed by Theyre Lee-Elliott in the 1930s for the company's predecessor, Imperial Airways—was emblazoned on everything from coasters and ashtrays to coin purses and playing cards. (Believe it or not, I have matching Speedbird tattoos on each calf. Like I said: I'm a little obsessed.) - DAVID JEFFERYS, SERVICE AND SURVEYS EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG VORE

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HARRY WINSTON

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Lotus Cluster

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